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## Dr. Leach and the Foundation

### A Quarter Century of Service

BY WILLIAM WITHERLE LAWRENCE

**A**NNOUNCEMENT is made elsewhere in this issue of the resignation of Dr. Henry Goddard Leach as President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Dr. Leach has held this office since 1926, after Dr. Hamilton Holt, his predecessor, left New York to become President of Rollins College in Florida. The administration of Dr. Leach has been marked by great energy and resourcefulness in directing the affairs of the Foundation, and in increasing its opportunities for service both in the Scandinavian countries and in the United States. The Trustees accept his resignation with deep regret, but feel that they have no right to debar him from a time of much-needed rest and recuperation.

Since 1923 Dr. Leach has been Editor-in-Chief of the *Forum*. It is not necessary to emphasize the heavy responsibility which this work entails. His reorganization of the magazine, and his energetic yet tactful policy of furnishing a practical medium for the discussion of questions of the day have given it an enviable place in American journalism. From 1923 to 1926 he was President of the Church Club, and he has also served as President of the Poetry Society of America, a position which he is at the present time relinquishing. His aid and counsel have been widely sought for charitable and philanthropic objects, and he has given liberally of his time as a lecturer and writer.

Our concern here is mainly with his interest in Scandinavian affairs. For the Presidency of the Foundation he has been singularly fitted

both by temperament and training. In 1903 he first visited the Scandinavian countries, and felt the charm which they hold for every traveler. From 1908 to 1910 he was again abroad, as Traveling Fellow of Harvard University, specializing in the Scandinavian languages and literatures. For a time he was secretary to the Honorable Maurice Francis Egan, a former Trustee of the Foundation, during Dr. Egan's term as Minister to Denmark. From 1910 to 1912 he was Instructor in English and the Scandinavian languages at Harvard. In 1912 he became Secretary of the Foundation, acting at the same time as Editor of the REVIEW. These positions he held until 1921, when his work was taken over by Mr. James Creese, now a Trustee of the Foundation and Vice-President of Stevens Institute, and by Miss Hanna Astrup Larsen, the present Literary Secretary and Editor of the REVIEW. In 1912-1913 Dr. Leach arranged with great success for the exhibition of Scandinavian Art brought to America under the auspices of the Foundation. He made frequent trips to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark; in 1913 helping to organize the Advisory Committees of the Foundation in those countries, and in 1919 securing economic support for the exchange of forty students annually. He published two important books: *Angevin Britain and Scandinavia* (1921), a scholarly survey of a field requiring much first-hand research; and a more popular work, *Scandinavia of the Scandinavians* (1915), which has been received with appreciation on both sides of the Atlantic. Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland have all honored him with decorations in recognition of his services to their people.

Such are the main records of Dr. Leach's work. But these tell only a part of the story. In times of financial uncertainty and administrative difficulties he has guided the Foundation with great sagacity, and brought it to a high degree of efficiency and prestige. It is now housed in a comfortable home of its own, it continues to effect an exchange of promising students, and it publishes annually books on Scandinavian subjects and Scandinavian classics in translation. To the exchange of Fellows Dr. and Mrs. Leach have made liberal contributions, and they have extended to the Foundation and its friends a gracious hospitality which will be long remembered.

It is pleasant to feel that Dr. Leach's energy, enthusiasm, and devotion are still to be at our service, and that though no longer President of the Foundation, he will still remain a Trustee. His friends in America, both East and West, and in the Scandinavian countries, will give him their warmest wishes as he retires for a well earned rest, with the prospect of many years of pleasurable activity ahead—not less agreeable if less strenuous than his work in the years gone by.

# Organizing for Security

## *Scandinavian Leadership in Regional Internationalism*

BY OSCAR J. FALNES

THE SECONDARY STATES of Europe today find it imperative to reconsider the problems of neutrality and the policy of collaboration with one another. For the Great Powers seem unable to keep the peace, and the energies hostile to it have, since the beginning of the late depression, had things much their own way. A military clique in the Orient and a set of raucous dictators in Central Europe have torn ragged holes in the fabric of international morality and decency: in Manchuria, in the Rhineland, in Ethiopia, in Spain and the Western Mediterranean, and again in China proper. The international system of the League of Nations, which proposed to deal collectively with the problem of security, and which therefore offered inestimably much to the secondary peoples, is more or less in abeyance, for the time being at least. Another war of major dimensions may yet be avoided, but the lesser states must count on it as a possibility. How best to guard their interests in such an eventuality becomes a serious question. The most obvious step is for them to take counsel with one another and determine what measure of security they may attain through joint effort.

In the practice of such collaborative effort none of the other secondary states have had as much experience as have the Scandinavian. While political cooperation among them dates back hardly a generation, a measure of cultural cooperation among their citizens dates back much longer. Since the middle of the nineteenth century a number of specialized interests in the three Northern countries has been cultivated increasingly on an Inter-Scandinavian basis. A loose count of the number of such interests might well yield three or four score. It would include half a dozen different specialties of teachers and of physicians meeting each on an all-Scandinavian basis, as well as congresses of artists, writers, social workers, and jurists; of police chiefs, of parliamentary members, of peace advocates, of labor groups. The last category is a very important one. Since the Eighties, Labor and Socialist Scandinavianism has been a definite feature of the Northern political scene. Today when all three of the Northern countries are ruled by Left wing governments, their leaders have an opportunity to

practise those ideals of international brotherhood which have been advocated by their colleagues everywhere.

Without any diminution of this cooperation on the private level—it has in fact decidedly increased—there has, in recent decades, been developed a measure of collaboration also on the official level. This new Scandinavianism—it may be called new to distinguish it from a predecessor of the mid-nineteenth century which was thoroughly discredited in the Sixties by the outcome of Denmark's disastrous war with Prussia—is in no sense dynastic or Unionist; it embodies no tendencies toward federalism or amalgamation. Its goal is not the unity of the three Northern peoples but their unanimity. It frankly recognizes the claims of nationality and takes for granted that the real problem is to make nationalities tolerant of one another and make them willing to collaborate in the pursuit of common interests.

The new Scandinavianism dates essentially from the World War. Throughout that conflict the statesmen and leaders of the three Northern countries faced two supremely important tasks: how to keep their countries neutral, and how to supply their peoples with the necessities of life in the face of the stringent blockades. From time to time there were meetings of the three Foreign Ministers, and there was consultation among other groups as well, such as members of the three Northern parliaments, of Cabinet members other than Foreign Ministers, and of representatives from various walks of public and economic life. The most striking outward symbol of this official collaboration was the meeting of King Christian X, King Gustav V, and King Haakon VII, at Malmö in 1914, and again at Christiania in 1917. In the setting of the time these meetings were significant. Less than ten years earlier Norway had broken away from Sweden, and Denmark had permitted a prince of her royal family to replace the Bernadotte dynasty on the Norwegian throne. Let it be said to the credit of Sweden's statesmen and her King that no irritating memories of the year 1905 were allowed, in 1914, to stand in the way of Inter-Scandinavian cooperation.

The common efforts of the War years awakened a desire to continue such cooperation when peace came, and there was a readiness in some circles to support a propagandist effort to that end. The outcome was in 1919 the organization of the Norden societies, one in each of the three countries, followed by a fourth in Iceland in 1922 and a fifth in Finland in 1924. The societies were organized as five autonomous or independent undertakings but they had the joint aim of fostering Inter-Scandinavian relations on every level of public activity.



Acting in unison, they made a very dramatic appeal to their respective countrymen on October 27, 1936. They succeeded in having the day set aside as *Nordens Dag* and in having it proclaimed as a national holiday in each of the five countries. Speeches by King Christian X, King Gustav V, and King Haakon VII, and by President Svinhufvud of Finland were broadcast in all the countries, while talks by a number of other prominent persons helped to give official support to the celebration of the day.

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Politically considered, the most consistent manifestation of the new Scandinavianism is embodied in the conferences of the Foreign Ministers. Initiated during the War, they continued to be held from time to time in the decade following, primarily in conjunction with the formulation of policies to be pursued in the League of Nations. Joined by Finland's Foreign Minister in 1934, the Scandinavian Ministers have of late been meeting two and even three times a year. Each Northern capital in turn has been host to them, and their frequent reunions have become something of an institution, being no longer official visits, so much as business meetings where there is work to be done. In addition to affairs of local import, and such routine League matters as intellectual cooperation, reform of the Covenant, and the refugee problem, the Ministers have lately given much attention to the threatening international situation. They have discussed such matters as possibilities of effective cooperation in economic and commercial matters in case of a new war, revision of certain neutrality rules of 1912 in the light of new developments in submarine and aerial warfare, and protection of Northern shipping in Spanish waters. Since the prospect for disarmament on any universal basis is, for the time being at least, wholly fanciful, the Ministers have recently considered means of promoting, with League approval naturally, a regional arrangement whereby the Northern states might exchange among one another information on armament expenditures, and establish a joint agency to supervise the manufacture of and the traffic in armaments. If these proposals materialize they may, as Foreign Minister Munch of Denmark has said, serve as something of an example to other secondary states.

To the significant related question of a Northern Military Alliance for purposes of defence the Ministers have given no countenance. The sentiment for such an Alliance, or rather for some collaboration, preferably verbal, among the military authorities of the several countries, has, in the last year or two, come to frequent expression in the press and periodical literature. Even the organs of the Social Democrats, traditionally opposed on principle to military alliances, have spoken

respectfully of a Northern Alliance. There has been least enthusiasm for such a project in Denmark, and Premier Stauning in March of 1937, in a speech at Lund, flatly characterized a Northern Military Alliance as utopian. The statement evoked a cry of pained surprise in many circles, especially in Sweden, and in the extent of that reaction we have some measure of the sympathy in the other countries for an Alliance of some sort. Nevertheless the Ministers have never discussed this question; so Foreign Minister Koht of Norway emphatically declared as recently as June of this year.

It is, of course, not strange that there should be a growing public uneasiness over the international situation also in the relatively quiet Scandinavian sector, by now almost a traditional haven of peace in Europe. In parts of the German press, including Goebbels' own organ, there has been much ado about several hundred Russian planes, supposedly stationed at the Karelian frontier, ready to sweep, in a few hours' time, with destructive fury over Finland and the entire Scandinavian peninsula. Then too—and about this circumstance there is no element of doubt—mysterious planes, presumably Russian, have been maneuvering above the Arctic Circle in Norway. Quite naturally some have preferred to think that the German Minister of War, Blomberg, recently visited the Hammerfest region not so much for a vacation as for the purpose of determining the possibility of establishing in the Arctic area a Nazi base of operations against the Bolshevik foe. Who shall blame the Northern neutrals if they yield to the argument that, if they do not take steps beforehand to prepare for it, they may have no neutrality left to guard when war breaks again? If there is to be another wholesale slaughter, the neutrals may conceivably be as much exposed to danger as the populations of the major belligerents; the latter may be tempted to shift some of the devastating engagements to buffer states or neutral areas, in order thus to spare their own populations some of the rigors of modern war.

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The new Scandinavianism has also an unmistakable economic aspect. During the World War the Northern states had occasion to cooperate in a great many economic matters, but it is from the years of the world depression that we date the significant developments in this direction. For these developments the Norden societies may claim their share of credit. A speech by Foreign Minister Sandler in 1934 proved to be a new point of departure. In each state so-called "Neighbor-Country" committees were established, each numbering four or five persons and so constituted as to give representation on every committee to the major branches of industry and economic life. These delegations held

their first joint meeting at Stockholm in February 1935. Later meetings have been at Copenhagen in October the same year, at Oslo in September 1936, and at Helsingfors in June 1937.

The work of the delegations is advisory in character. After discussion and agreement on a matter, the procedure is for them to transmit their findings to their respective governments by whom the findings are officially promulgated in each country. The delegations have been able to effect a number of changes designed to facilitate Inter-Scandinavian trade. They have likewise recommended an exchange of laborers. This is a very interesting proposal, the idea being that laborers are to be exchanged whenever there is a reported shortage of skilled workers in any one of the countries. Here is an instance of international cooperation which, if it can be effected, certainly will be worth watching. Somewhat original too is the collaboration, likewise initially recommended by the delegations, that has been established between the trade experts of the several foreign offices; these now meet quite frequently to exchange information on each country's trade negotiations with other countries, negotiations contemplated or now in progress. Certain committees of economic supply have likewise been established and the delegations have given attention to "external" trade, that is, to measures that may be taken to improve trade between Northern Europe and the rest of the world. As one effort to that end they have decided to publish jointly in several major languages a work to make better known the significance of the peoples of the North in the world's economy. Theirs is, by the way, no mean place in that economy. The Scandinavian North was a better customer of Germany in 1934 than either England or France. Likewise it is England's best customer, save for British India.

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The most arresting manifestation of Northern economic cooperation is the so-called Oslo Convention. That agreement can be understood by taking account of the international situation at the beginning of the depression. Europe, in the later twenties, seemed caught in a dilemma; Bolshevism menaced her on one side, American efficiency and mass-production methods on the other. Perhaps, argued some, she might, if she bestirred herself in time, meet the challenges by reducing some of her many national tariff walls. The League Assembly called a Tariff Truce Conference which first met in February of 1930. It discussed the many obstacles in the way of tariff reduction; then it adjourned and met again in November the same year for a second fruitless session. A spreading world depression was paralyzing international trade.

Opinion veered more and more to the idea of tariff agreements on a regional basis. Spokesmen of the three Northern countries and of the Netherlands met at The Hague shortly before the second session of the Tariff Conference to discuss some of the issues that might there arise. These deliberations led to further negotiations the outcome of which was that, shortly before the Christmas holidays that year, representatives of the four states mentioned and of Belgium-Luxemburg (created a customs union by a treaty of 1922) assembled at Oslo and on December 22, after some days of deliberation, signed the Oslo Convention.

According to the Convention the six contracting powers agreed not to increase the prevailing duties and not to institute any new ones without fifteen days' notice to one another. Any member feeling adversely affected by such a notice might within ten days propose modifications. The first state, if it still persisted, must wait a month before putting the new duties into effect. The agreement was open to other states and if not denounced was renewable for successive six-month terms.

Thus had been outlined a sort of "economic union" within whose limits a partial truce had been declared on tariff rivalries which elsewhere seemed to be growing ever more acrimonious. The meeting at Oslo, it should be noted, had been called on Norwegian initiative—Johan Ludwig Mowinckel was a moving spirit in the matter—and the Norwegian Government was constituted a sort of clearing agency or secretariat. It was to receive any notices of withdrawal, which it was to forward to the other signatories. To it, likewise, were to go notices regarding the inclusion within the scope of the agreement of any colonial possessions, a provision of obvious interest to Belgium and the Netherlands.

Effected just as the depression got seriously under way, the Oslo compact was soon more or less in abeyance. It was handicapped by England's insistence on most-favored-nation treatment and by the promulgation of the Ottawa agreements. Then too after 1931, the retention by Belgium and the Netherlands of the gold standard made difficult the relations with the Scandinavian sterling bloc. Yet a gesture had been made in the direction of regional tariff cooperation. In 1934 Finland joined the combination.

The most significant developments, however, have taken place within the last year. Acting on the initiative of Premier Collijn of the Netherlands early in 1937, a group of trade experts of the Oslo powers in March met at The Hague. Their deliberations led in April at Brussels to a preparatory conference of the representatives of the Oslo



states. This led in turn in May to the signing of a new agreement amplifying in some respects the provisions of the original Oslo Convention. The Netherlands and Belgium-Luxemburg, employing the quota system, undertook not to increase existing trade barriers or raise the duties on products of the other signatory countries. On their part the four Northern countries promised not to introduce the quota system and likewise to raise no duties on products from the others. Changes that might cause difficulties for one or more of the signatories were to be communicated to all of them before being put into effect. The agreement was to run for one year from July 1, 1937, and other states might join.

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The Oslo Convention is, of course, first and foremost an economic undertaking. But the relations among the Great Powers being what they are of late, the Oslo powers could hardly be expected to confine their deliberations strictly to economic matters. Their representatives have given consideration to the steps that could be taken, in the event of a general war, to guard the neutrality of the group as such. Moreover, on the initiative of Sweden, they have discussed at some length the feasibility, in conformity with League procedures, of exchanging with one another information regarding their military expenditures, and the possibility of some control of their armament industries. It takes no great perspicacity to see that a league of six or seven neutrals in Northern Europe, if it could be effected, might well give a great Power reason to pause and consider before it incurred the hostility of all of them. Moreover, other secondary states, seeing the advantages of this combination, might be tempted to join.

The last possibility is not as remote as it may at first appear. In the East Baltic area there is a constellation of secondary states, whose members have already cast a favorable glance on the Oslo group. They are Esthonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In 1934 these signed a ten-year agreement providing for frequent conferences of their Foreign Ministers—at least two a year—to be held successively in each of the three capitals. The provision reminds one of the well established tradition of the Scandinavian Foreign Ministers.

In any probable collaborative effort between the Scandinavian states and the Baltic group the pivotal state may be either Sweden or Finland. The latter in a very real sense belongs to both of them. In matters of history and nationality she owes not a little to her Swedish heritage, and in matters of foreign policy, as we have seen, she has definitely cast in her lot with the Scandinavian states. On the other hand, she is closely related by ties of culture and language with Esthonia across

the Gulf of Finland. Moreover, like the three Baltic countries, she is a succession state and shares with them historical traditions of the former Russian Empire. Sweden, however, might be fully as significant in any future Baltic-North Sea combination. She is the largest of the Scandinavian group and the one having the most direct contacts with the shores of the East Baltic. Traditions of her rule, dating from the seventeenth century, are common to two of the Baltic states, and those traditions are regarded with more good will than is customarily tendered to the heritage of former conquerors; at any rate they have in those countries been regarded with more good will than has been accorded the medieval traditions of German supremacy or the early modern traditions of Russian rule. The potentialities of the East Baltic situation have assuredly not been overlooked by Foreign Minister Sandler of Sweden who in the name of his country has in recent years done so much effective work for international cooperation, on a regional basis as well as on the broader field at Geneva.

Whether any Baltic-North Sea combination like that described is to materialize will depend much on the growth or the relaxation of the tension in Central Europe. For the Baltic states, since the advent of Hitler (the circumstance which brought them together in 1934), are increasingly apprehensive of a Russo-German war, and will be tempted to seek additional security in a larger combination than their own Baltic union. It is a fact of some significance that hardly had the Scandinavian peoples finished celebrating *Nordens Dag* in October 1936 than the press of the Baltic states began dropping hints that only a "peace front" extending around the Baltic could avert a Russo-German conflict, intimating that a conference with the Scandinavian states would be welcome! The prospect of some such development, by the way, has caused uneasy stirrings in Berlin, where it is feared that an enlarged Baltic-North Sea combine might fall into the control of England.

The idea of a league of neutrals is by no means new in the North. At the turn of the present century—to go no farther back—there was much talk of a Scandinavian neutrality league. A wider combination was envisaged by the Norwegian poet and publicist, Björnson, who for two decades argued valiantly in favor of his ambitious conception. Starting from small beginnings it seemed to him that a league of neutrals offered the only prospect of a successful attack on the war system. The Great Powers were too heavily committed to that system, so nothing could be expected of them. The initiative would have to come from the secondary states; they had most to gain from a federation devoted to arbitration, neutrality, and disarmament. The logical

place to make a beginning, thought Björnson, would be within the Scandinavian group. These three would soon be joined by the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, and Switzerland. Later, Germany, and beyond her Austria, would join, and finally England and the United States would come in. Today we anticipate no such rosy prospect as this, but the first stage of Björnson's scheme has a fair chance of being realized in Northern Europe.

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In any wider combination reaching across the North Sea, on one hand, or across the Baltic, on the other, the Scandinavian group proper will remain the solid central core. Its members have to their credit a long tradition of cooperation in cultural matters and a generation of practical internationalism. Even in the matter of the Oslo Convention, as Foreign Minister Sandler pointed out a year ago, the Scandinavian states as a group collaborate beyond the limits called for by the strict letter of the agreement.

Those who would minimize the Scandinavian accomplishment in building up a tradition of cooperation, by maintaining that for them the task has been less difficult than for others, because of similarities of race and language and religion, have seen the situation too superficially. We take the true measure of Scandinavian accomplishment in this regard when we recall that here too are possible elements of discord. For centuries these Northern states have quarreled many a time. Their history records a long list of internecine wars, often sanguine enough. The development of the modern world economy makes them rivals in several fields. Denmark and Sweden compete for world markets in certain agricultural products; Sweden and Norway and Finland, up to a certain point, are rivals in the production of lumber. Of assertive nationalism, too, the Northern peoples have had their full share. But without abating any pride of nationality they have in large part outgrown the more bumptious stages of modern nationalism and have indicated that neighboring nationalities, even if they be rivals on some fields, have to learn to be tolerant of one another. The point here is that the tradition of collaboration established in Inter-Scandinavian affairs is not an obvious or automatic product but the result of will and conscious endeavor. It springs from the rational conviction that neighboring countries can pursue matters of common concern most effectively through joint action.

The Scandinavian peoples have demonstrated that internationalism on a regional scale is practical. Such joint action as theirs offers some assurance of neutrality, and even of peace, to the secondary states; offers perhaps as much as they can hope for, until the time when the

League or some similar collective endeavor provides an adequate bulwark of security. And who knows—provided the evil day of war be postponed for yet some time—but that the example of cooperation they have set may have some material part in averting any new general war, so universally dreaded.

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## Christmas Candles

BY PER SIVLE

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE.

But down in hell the prince of the devils sat on his throne, which is named despair, over his shoulders hung the cloak of darkness, and on his head he wore the crown of hate.

On the earth up above, the Christmas candles shone from ever so many glittering Christmas trees, until the light was reflected far down in hell. The prince of the devils felt the glare in his eyes. He called one of his ministering spirits, whom he bade fly up to earth and put out those Christmas candles.

The ministering angel departed.

And he came back.

"Well?" asked the prince of the devils.

"No," said the ministering spirit. "I couldn't. I found every single Christmas tree encircled by an impenetrable wall of children's hands and jubilant, happy children's voices."

"Impenetrable?" cried the prince of the devils scornfully.

"Ay," said the ministering spirit, "impenetrable and in the form of a memory."

"A memory?"

"Yes, it came to my mind how, in the beginning of time, we all danced hand in hand around the newly-created world, jubilant in the fullness of light from eternal love."

Then the prince of the devils gnashed his teeth. "Do you think that is speech meet for a devil?" he shrieked.

"No, but for a fallen angel," said the ministering spirit.

And the prince of the devils was silent.



# The Study of Man

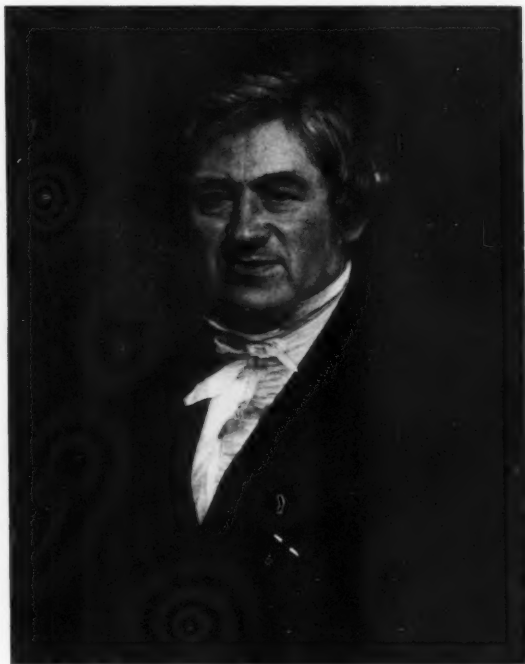
*Denmark Organized the World's  
First Ethnographical Museum*

BY THOMAS THOMSEN

NOT MANY readers are aware, perhaps, that the oldest ethnographical museum in the world is found in Copenhagen. Work upon it was begun close to a hundred years ago, and it was opened to the public in 1846. Three years later it was moved to the fine old Prinsens Palais which still forms a part of the complex of buildings occupied by the Museum. It was the first of the many collections that gradually grew up and were combined in 1892 under the name of the National Museum.

At the time when the Ethnographical Museum was founded, Denmark had besides Greenland—now her only colony—possessions in West Africa, in India, in the Nicobar Islands, and in the West Indies. The founder, Christian Jürgensen Thomsen, in his first guide to the Museum stressed particularly that Denmark as a maritime State with colonial possessions was a natural place for such an institution.

With this in mind, he set out first of all to secure systematic collections from the colonies. It was natural that he should begin thus from within, as it were, but he aimed at something much greater than the mere establishment of a colonial museum. The new element in Thomsen's plan was the idea of creating a museum "which should



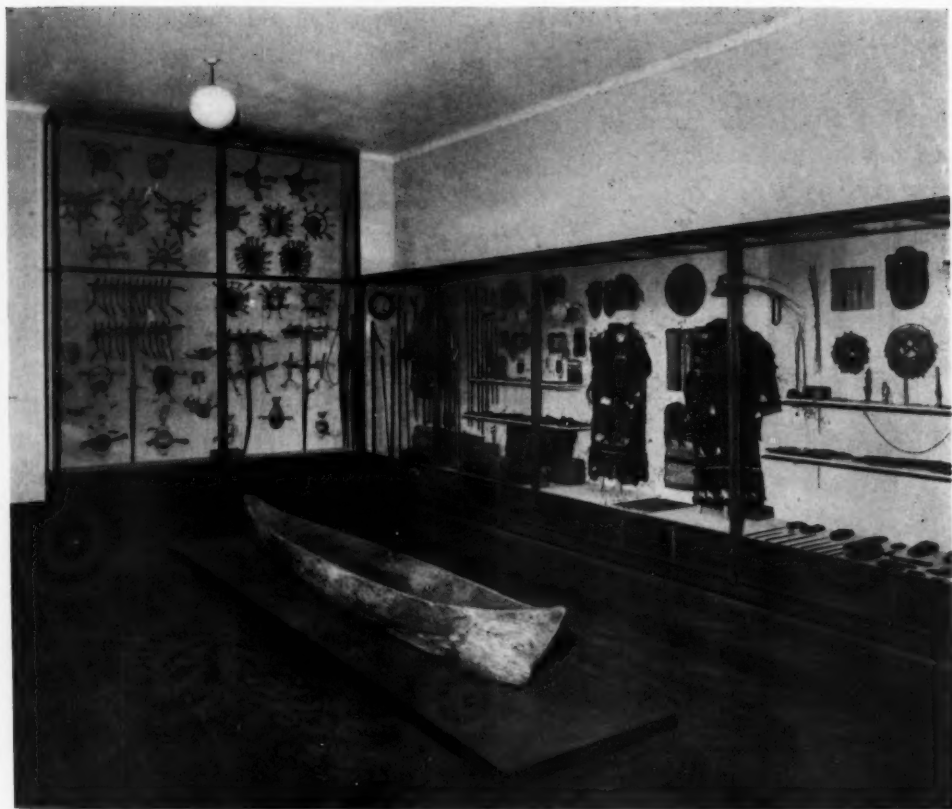
*Christian Jürgensen Thomsen, Founder of the  
Museum. 1788—1865  
Painting by J. Vilh. Gertner*

include not merely a few, but so far as possible all peoples not possessing European culture."

Christian Jürgensen Thomsen, by his epoch-making demonstration that it was possible to discern three distinct periods in our antiquity, the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age, revolutionized European archeology and made his name famous the world over. He was incontestably the most important museum man that Denmark has produced. He realized that it was not merely a matter of collecting curiosities—we had already been doing that for a couple of centuries—but of combining them in series that should provide "knowledge of mankind under the various conditions which climate, race, and religion bring about." In these words he really gave in a nutshell the program of ethnography.

But along with the ability to bring order and system into every collection entrusted to his care—and as time passed they were many—Thomsen had another capacity which was no less valuable when it came to creating a museum with limited means. He knew how to arouse interest. Not only did colonial officials, merchant captains, and Danish business men in distant lands vie in making contributions to the new museum, but the public as a whole, workingmen, soldiers, and children poured in to share in the lively tours which he himself conducted through the Museum. The aloof, superior scholars of the day made fun of this public, and when Thomsen died in 1865, the year after the disastrous war in Slesvig, and it became necessary to economize, a storm was raised in the Rigsdag which threatened the Museum's existence. But the storm blew over and the future has vindicated Thomsen; he created the first modern, popular museum. Among those children who all their lives remembered Thomsen's exhibitions as among the most cherished experiences of their childhood was Carl Jacobsen, who later became the head of the Carlsberg Breweries and a great patron of art. The Museum takes pride in following the tradition established by its founder and still furthers its activities through gifts and aid from Danes abroad. Lauritz Andersen of Shanghai, who gave £50,000 for the new museum building, wrote in a letter that he still remembered from the Ethnographical Museum a series of pictures of rice farming, such as he now had actually before his eyes.

In the middle of the last century the more remote quarters of the world were still rather inaccessible. There were no Cook's agents waiting at the landing. Indeed, there was a greater likelihood of being met by an armed gang who coveted, not the traveler's money, but rather his head as a new acquisition to their collection of trophies. Travel was not without danger in those days; but on the other hand



*The Alaskan Eskimo Room. In the Background the Masks and Implements Used in Certain Dances, from the Collections of Knud Rasmussen. In the Foreground a Canoe Found at Palutat, Long Bay, in 1933*

native art was at a high level. The natives had time and patience then to do their best work, whereas now they turn out articles in mass for the tourists who overrun the world by regular steamship and airplane routes.

Those were good days for making collections. But perhaps the Ethnographical Museum would not have seen the light at that time, if it had not fallen heir to the ethnographical material from the old Royal Art Museum, which was broken up in the 1820s. It had been founded by King Frederik III in the middle of the seventeenth century and had gradually absorbed three other museums of the time. In those days art museums contained everything that was rare and curious, from classic art, paintings, and coins, to misshapen monsters and strangely formed stones. When the great discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries opened up a whole new world, the

collecting spirit turned towards the things which nature and mankind had produced in these distant countries. The ethnographical collections now made their appearance as a part of art museums. That the age was in general unable to see more in them than curiosities does not, of course, detract from their real worth, and many of the Museum's greatest rarities come from the old Royal collection. Thanks to the old inventories, it has been possible to identify some three hundred objects which have been in the country since the seventeenth century.



*Keokuk the Elder, Chief of the Sauk Indians*  
*Painting by Charles B. King*

Before the Art Museum was dissolved, the collections of paintings, coins, and the natural history collection had been separated from it, and there was left a motley remnant which was kept together under the designation "Kunstmuseet." This was the museum of which Thomsen became head in 1839 and from the materials of which he selected the basis for the Ethnographical Museum.

Naturally this original collection was extremely defective and haphazard, and as I have said before, Thomsen tried immediately to increase it from our colonies,

a work which became doubly important, since Denmark disposed of most of these possessions shortly afterwards. Another event of which Thomsen wisely took advantage was the corvette *Galathea's* cruise around the world in 1845-47, on which it was possible to secure objects from the various places visited. A very considerable collection of pre-Columbian earthen vessels was sent home from Peru, and a number of fine things from Hawaii, including a feather boa in yellow and green in contrast to the usual color combination of yellow and red. The value of this piece is evident from the fact that the Bernice Pauahi



Bishop Museum in Honolulu, which was founded by a Hawaiian princess and is thus in possession of the most important collection of these feather adornments, has been desirous of securing it. In the Nicobars the *Galathea* expedition procured a considerable number of rare objects, since it was one of the special tasks of the expedition to investigate conditions on these islands which at that time were Danish.

Among the chief attractions of the Museum is the Indian collection, which includes a large number of Hindu temple bronzes: idols and cult vessels which were all excavated in 1799 on the site of the fortress of Dansborg in what was then the Danish colony of Tranquebar. These things must have been buried to hide them from profane hands in 1310, the only time a Mohammedan army reached this place.

The rest of the temple sculptures from southern India owned by the Museum reached us by another route. Most of them came through the missionary Eduard Löventhal, who succeeded in the years before 1900 in getting the government of the State of Mysore to turn over to Denmark a considerable number of stone sculptures from temples now in ruins which are known to have been built in the thirteenth century. These buildings were completely covered on the outside with



*A Woman of the Cannibal Tapuyan Indians, Carrying Her Provisions*

*Painted in Brazil in 1641 by Albert Eckhout*



*Costume Once Worn by Moses Keokuk  
and Presented to the Museum*

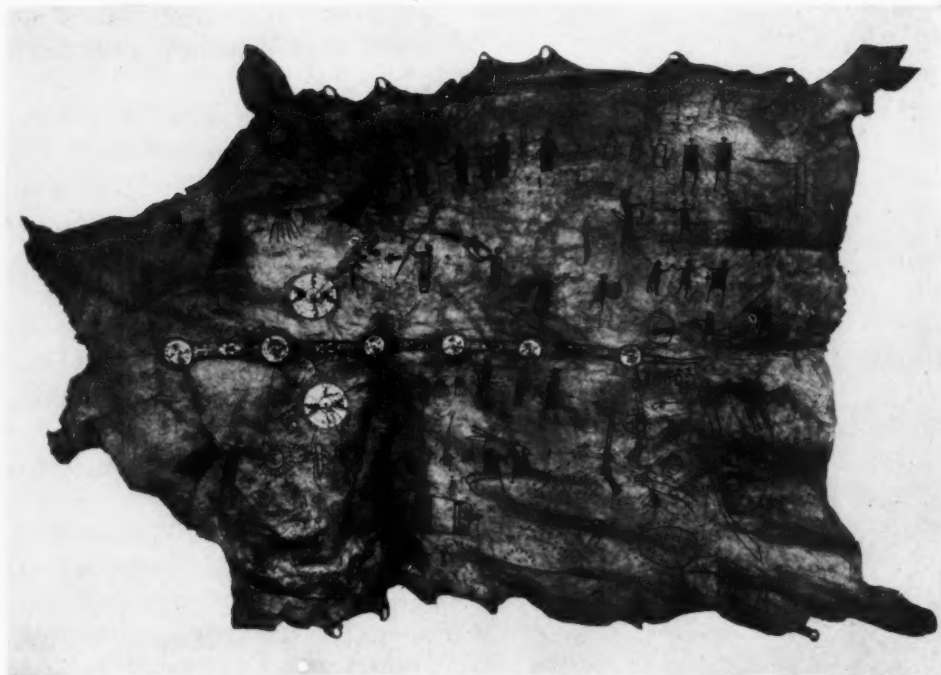
European merchant in Peking. He had come there to supply the embassies with European products, and since these products were also in demand at the Court and among the aristocracy, he had the best possible connections when it came to collecting Chinese antiquities. He was still there during the Boxer uprising, when the disturbed conditions brought many things into the market which had been preserved for centuries within the walls of the home.

It would be natural here to dwell particularly upon the American

works of sculpture; what a colossal achievement this must have been will be understood when we say that the lowest frieze in the largest of these temples, a row of elephants, contained two thousand animals, and this reached only one foot above the ground. This temple had been in the process of construction for eighty years when political conditions prevented its ever being completed.

It is thanks to the patient work of Löventhal through many long years that we possess not only a representation of the Hindu temple sculpture of southern India which in Europe is certainly surpassed only by London, but also one of the most important collections illustrative of the folk religion and folk life of southern India. In regard to the latter, however, he must share the honor with the collections which the founder of the Museum had caused to be made in the 1840s.

Of the many Danes who have worked often for a whole generation for the Museum, we shall mention here only two: in Indonesia, R. S. Thal Larsen, who lived as a plantation owner in Java until his death, and in China, P. Kierulff, who was for many years the only



*A Sioux Chieftain's Cape of Buffalo Hide with Pictures of His Exploits, Showing that Rifles and Bows and Arrows Were Used at the Same Time*

material, and of this we shall mention first some of the old things from the Royal collection. The Museum owns a unique piece, a tomahawk with a blade of stone and a shaft ornamented with inlaid shell beads. It was in the Gottorp Museum from about 1700; its period of usefulness must date a century further back; about the year 1600 it was a weapon belonging to the Indians in the region of what is now New York. It makes one feel strongly the development in culture from that time to the present.

From the Royal collection, too, comes a group of life-size oil paintings of the Indians. They were painted in Brazil in 1641-43 by a Dutch artist, who accompanied Prince Moritz of Nassau-Siegen, the Dutch Governor-General there. These are the oldest known large pictures of primitive people; King Frederik III received them in 1654 as a personal gift from Prince Moritz.

In the 1860s there were two Danes in the United States to whom the Museum is largely indebted for its collection of Indian costumes and utensils from a period when the Indians were still on the warpath and not peacefully settled on their reservations. One of them is Valdemar Raaslöff, then *chargé d'affaires* in Washington and later Danish



*A Remarkable Example of Negro Sculpture, from the Belgian Congo, Presented by the Bakuba King Kwete Peshanga to a Danish Lady, 1915*

Minister of War, the other, Ferdinand Winsl w, a banker in Chicago.

Through Mr. Raasl ff the Museum came into more direct contact with the Indians: one of our costumes was presented and had been worn by Moses Keokuk, chief of the Sauk Indians from 1848 to 1903. His father and predecessor was the famous Chief Keokuk. In our ethnographical collection there is a painting of him done when he was thirty-five or forty. It is one of a series of nine paintings of Indian chiefs and their wives who visited Washington in 1825-27. Their friendly disposition is emphasized by the fact that most of them are decorated with the Washington medal. They were painted during this visit by Charles B. King; and our Governor-General in the West Indies, Peter C. F. Scholten, received the pictures as a gift from the American President when he was in Washington on a diplomatic errand.

The difference in the outfit of the older and the younger Keokuk shows how strong the foreign influence has been in the forty-odd years that lie between them. The younger Keokuk's cape is a red flannel blanket on which are embroidered the drawings of hands which his father bears painted in red on his chest.

It is doubtless owing to Mr. Raasl ff's influence also that



there was in 1868 an important exchange of objects between the museums in Washington and Copenhagen. Our connection with America, however, is not limited to the work of these two men; it has continued right up to the present day. We shall mention here the large gift of beautiful basketry from the Western states presented by Mr. Chr. Andersen, and the collection of early and late pottery from the Pueblo Indians with which the Danish born archeologist Mr. N. C. Nelson, curator at the Museum of Natural History, New York, has remembered the museum of his native land. Professor Frank G. Speck of the University of Pennsylvania, too, has carried on a profitable work for many years in his study trips among the more northerly Indians.

Americans and Danes have also undertaken investigations in common in recent years. Dr. Frederica de Laguna of Philadelphia and Dr. Kaj Birket-Smith of our museum together conducted an archeological-ethnographical expedition to southern Alaska in 1933. And our countryman, Mr. Frans Blom, director of the Department of Middle American Research, Tulane University, Louisiana, who has repeatedly shown his interest in our museum on his many expeditions into Central America and Mexico, had Mr. Jens Yde along as partner on an expedition to Honduras and Guatemala in 1935.

The items mentioned above have been chosen with special regard for what might be of interest in the United States. We shall have to forego including the rest of the world. One thing, however, must not be overlooked: our collections from the Arctic peoples and especially from the Eskimos, from whom the Museum has definitely the largest collection in Europe and—it is certainly not too much to say—one which seriously rivals that of the U.S.A.

As for our own colony, Greenland, the comprehensive Danish investigations have naturally given us precedence there. For our extensive material from the other Eskimos, we are chiefly indebted to Dr. Knud Rasmussen, who made it his aim in life to explore the migratory paths of the Eskimos eastwards toward Greenland. On the fifth Thule expedition from Greenland to the Pacific in 1921-24, which he conducted and upon which he was accompanied by competent Danish specialists, he succeeded in coming into contact with most of the Eskimo tribes. His own special study was their spiritual and intellectual life—their religion, myths, and legends. He was equipped for this work as no one else was, not only by his thorough knowledge of the language, for which the foundation was laid in his childhood in Greenland, but still more by his unique understanding of the Eskimo way of thinking and his ability to gain their confidence and make them feel him as one of them—

selves. Besides the rich folkloristic material, which owing to his death in the midst of the work has not yet been fully treated, this expedition brought home to the Museum about 15,000 objects, a mass of material which will occupy about eight of the 105 exhibition rooms of the Museum. It is therefore only natural that the Museum in its new quarters should have dedicated a room to his memory.

The idea which originated in France in the 1820s, that since stones, plants, and animals had their special museums, mankind should have one too, was first realized by Christian Jürgensen Thomsen in "the general Ethnographical Museum in Copenhagen." For a long time it stood alone, and like everything new had to endure opposition and scorn. France herself did not secure her ethnographical museum until much later. The primitive peoples really began to receive attention only when the European archeologists became aware that their culture afforded parallels with the conditions which had prevailed in Europe in remote ages; ethnography could serve to bring to life the dead material of archeology. To waste time nowadays defending the rightness of Thomsen's idea would be absurd. Little by little it triumphed, and now there is hardly a city of any size the world over which has not its ethnographical museum.

When the streams of tourists reach Denmark in 1938, they will find the new arrangements for the Ethnographical Museum completed and with that the keystone will have been placed on the Danish National Museum. An international anthropological and ethnographical congress in Copenhagen the same summer will give the foreign scientists an opportunity to judge of the result.



*Tomahawk with Stone Blade and Ornamental Shaft, from New York about 1600*



*Where the Highway Leads up to Saltfjell*

## The Road to the Midnight Sun

*A New Highway Opening Northern Norway*

BY FRIDTJOF KNUTSEN

NORTHERN NORWAY revealed itself in an entirely new aspect to those who visited it last summer, a greater, richer, and more beautiful northern Norway, and a population filled with new enterprise and faith in the future. And it seemed as though Nature herself wanted to contribute to the festivity of the new era that is initiated, for she gave us a summer more brilliant than any we have experienced in the memory of man.

At last the northern half of the Kingdom begins to see its dreams being realized, dreams of communications that will bind it more closely to the rest of Norway and release the energies that have so long been slumbering. The opening of the National Highway to Bodö is an event which to the people of Nordland seems more important than



*Official Opening of the National Highway over Saltfjell*

anything else that has happened to them since the fast steamship route was established. What it means that we now have unbroken connection by land between Bodö in the north and Stavanger in the southwest is something that no one can understand who has not himself tried the isolation of Nordland in former days.

The coast with its wild, magnificent scenery has hitherto been all that the outside world knew of northern Norway. Not even the people of Nordland themselves have known more of their province than what they could see from a boat or from the deck of a mail steamer. It is the inner stretches of the land that are now revealed by the National Highway. This road is now open for traffic to Bodö, the county seat of Nordland and the most southerly Norwegian city north of the Arctic Circle; and in three years it will extend unbroken all the way up to Kirkenes in South Varanger, the northeastern tip of Norway. It is of this new northern Norway Hamsun says that there is "room for ten times as large a population, with herds of cattle." Since the construction of highways began in earnest in 1918, northern Norway has increased its cultivated area by 80 per cent, but there are still 400,000 acres of tillable soil that can be utilized. As yet the total length of highways in this





*King Haakon in an Informal Moment*

half of Norway constitutes only one-tenth of the total road net of the country. As the work of building goes on, new land is plowed, and even though the population cannot be multiplied by ten, it will at least grow to much more than 12 per cent of the total population of the country which is the present figure.

A railroad through Nordland has long been on the program of the State Railways, but owing to poor economic conditions and the immense cost of railway construction in our country, the project seemed to be incapable of realization within a reasonable time. A suggestion that the 1,800 kilometers from Trondheim to Kirkenes should be covered by a highway was received with much skepticism. But in 1933 Director of Highways Baalsrud proposed a plan which could be realized at a comparatively small cost. He proposed to connect the already existing local roads in northern Norway with a trunk highway, a project which could be carried through for about 16 million kroner in a period of seven years. It would not make an absolutely first-class highway, for there would be many deviations from the straight line. On the other hand, this plan had an advantage in that it would connect the inland regions with the fjords and steam-

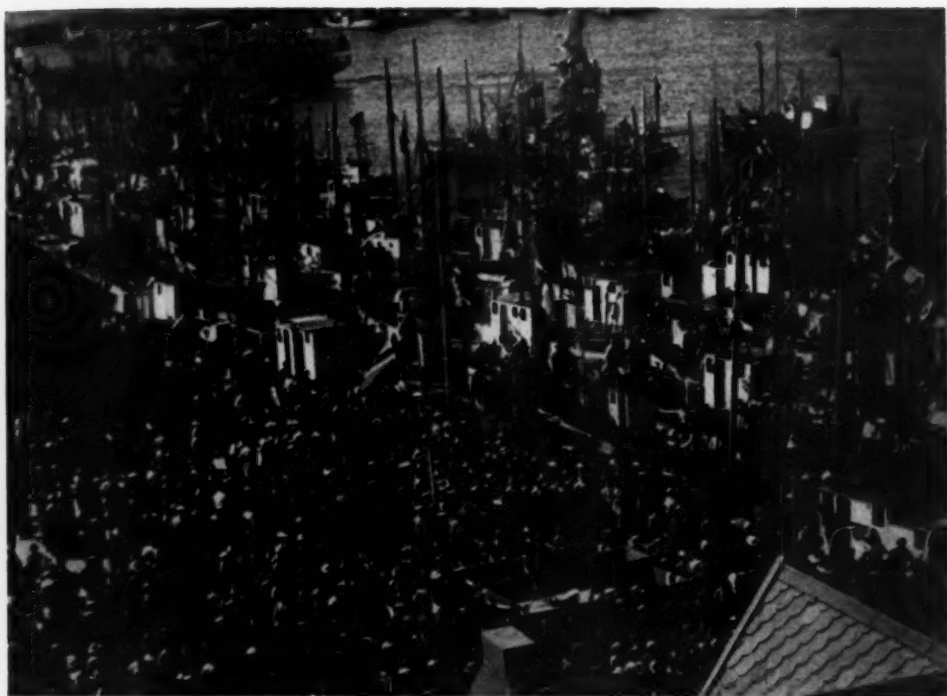


*The Börvass Peaks at Bodö Seen from the Highway*

boat landings and thus create the most favorable conditions for the development of economic life. For everybody agrees that the coastal traffic, with the excellent fast mail steamers running on regular schedules, is and always will be the chief means of communication in northern Norway.

It was the first stage of this projected trunk line which was finished last summer and which was formally dedicated by the King with the opening of the road over Saltfjell, July 3. North of Bodö there is still a distance of 600 kilometers to be covered, although some sections here and there are ready.

The National Highway to Bodö has become a tourist attraction, and perhaps a short description of the road to the Midnight Sun may be of interest to readers even on the other side of the ocean. The way goes through miles of forest land in Namdalen, but on reaching the boundary of Nordland at Smalvatn the landscape becomes a high mountain plateau. Tiny lakes and tarns full of delicious trout lie side by side along the road like beads on a string, but were almost inaccessible before the highway was built. Through Svenningsdal we follow the Svenningsdal River, which is full of salmon. The road goes through



*The Fishing Fleet in Review Before the King at Bodö*

deep forests until we have passed Svenningsfjell and Kapskarmo. Here we see Blaafjell rising up with a glacier on its top and with wide strips of ice extending down between the mountains. At Blaafjellmo the route meets the Vefsna River and we enter into a splendid farming district, with the landing place Mosjöen at the bottom of the Vefsenfjord. The road passes on through a landscape that is incessantly changing from broad valleys to high mountain plateaus. We pass the landing places Hemnesberget and Mo i Ranen. At Elsfjord the road is interrupted by a seventeen-kilometer wide arm of the fjord, and here the ferry carries us across. From there we continue through the Dunderlandsdal up to Saltfjell.

The road over Saltfjell is from the tourist viewpoint the most interesting part. We have now reached the great wild mountain plateau where reindeer moss is the only form of vegetation. Even this plateau, however, is not quite uninhabited, for here and there we see the tops of the tents in which the mountain Lapps live. Saltfjell has for thousands of years been the summer pasture of the Lapps, and the tourist often meets large flocks of reindeer. Close to the road lies the old sacrificial place of the Lapps, three huge strangely formed stones, black with fat



*Midnight View from the Tourist Cabin on Rönvikfjell*

and blood from sacrifices that have been carried on for hundreds of years. Of course the Lapps are now Christians, but their Christian faith is not so well established but that they occasionally still meet in the light summer nights at the sacrificial stones to pay tribute to the gods that guided the steps of their ancestors in their wanderings.

On this mountain the road crosses the Arctic Circle, which now is marked by a monument. It was there that the King officially opened the road under a portal built for the occasion from the tools of the workmen.

As we come down from the plateau we can take a side road to one of Norway's most remarkable natural wonders, Junkerdal. This wild mountain valley, a hollow of stone walls and rich vegetation in fascinating mixture, will delight all who have a sense of the beauty of nature. It is no exaggeration to say that here, in the wildest Arctic mountains, we find an almost sub-tropical vegetation. The immense stone walls in Junkerdal form, as it were, a bowl turned to the south, where the temperature may become almost equatorial.

Saltdal is a rich and fertile settlement, which gives a glimpse of what the inland of northern Norway may become in time. Here agriculture, fishing, mining, and manufacturing are all highly developed. The people are extremely enterprising, and such a thing as unemployment is unknown. A case in point is the boat-building which, from its center in Rognan, is carried on far up in the country. Almost on every peasant



farm we can see people busily building boats for the Nordland fishing fleet.

Along the Saltfjord the traveler from a distance will also have occasion to admire the magnificent scenery of the Nordland coast. It requires steady nerves to drive along the highway at Kvenflåget, which is built right in the solid mountain several hundred meters over the surface of the ocean. An almost perpendicular precipice goes from the edge of the road down into the sea and overhead the sky is almost hidden by masses of rock. Involuntarily we are reminded of the tradition which has given this wild section its name. A band of Kven (Norwegian-Finnish) robbers were on their way to Saltdal to plunder. Up in the mountains they caught a Lapp and forced him to show them the way. It was a dark winter night and the Lapp, who was on skis, went ahead with a torch. When he came to Kvenflåget he suddenly turned and threw the torch ahead of him out over the precipice. The robbers did not notice this maneuver. They saw the light of the torch and followed it out over the edge of the abyss.

During the dedication of the National Highway and the opening of the fair in Bodö, which was held at the same time, we saw many signs of the splendid optimism which has been created in the people of Nordland by the new means of communication. Most impressive was the review of the fishermen before the King in the harbor of Bodö. There the toilers of the sea had met to welcome the crowds of travelers who had made use of the new road to visit northern Norway. About a thousand fishing boats from all parts of the coast had gathered in the harbor and passed the King in review. And the spokesman of the people, the seventy-five-year-old master, Martin Arnesen, like a genuine son of Nordland reminded us of the fairy tale which had become a reality. The fairy tale was that about the poet pastor, Peter Dass, the well-known author of *Nordlands Trompet*, a versified description of the country. It is related that Peter Dass flew on the devil's back from his parsonage, Alstadhaug in Nordland, to Copenhagen where he was to preach. Now the people of Nordland no longer need the devil to help them reach the outside world. It lies open before them, and the fisherman of Nordland feels now more than ever that he is the freest man in the freest country on earth.

Indeed the world lies open to the people of northern Norway, and they dream that their Nordland is to become a portal toward the sea for a large part of northeastern Europe. Hitherto northern Norway, with its uncharted inland, has been as a wall blocking the exit. Now this wall is being broken down, and intercourse with neighboring countries will fructify northern Norway with new riches.



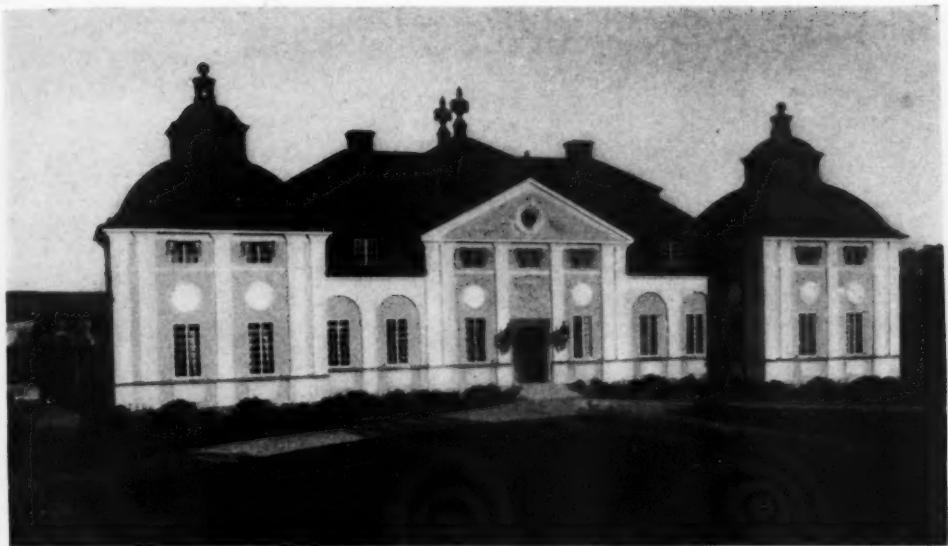
*Lazå Manor, by Carl Westman, is a new country seat on the site of an old one. The beautiful proportion of window to wall, the rich doorway, and high-pitched roof are in the spirit of the old without being a direct copy*

## Modern Mansions

### The Last of Four Articles on Building Traditions in Sweden

BY LINTON WILSON

**T**HE MANSIONS and villas that stand on the granite hills of Gothenburg, or lie along the lagoons of Stockholm, are so Swedish that they could have been built in no other country. Red brick walls and tile roofs, straight simple lines, disciplined ornament, and harmonious setting linger vividly in the memory of anyone who has seen them. The fantasy of their details makes them remarkable as artistic creations. But in order to appreciate how their form, substance, and purpose have been integrated by their designers, it is necessary to study the records that lead back directly to Swedish history and Swedish buildings, to Swedish wood, stone, brick and mortar, and to the traditions of Swedish workmanship and living. These houses show that when Sweden, one of the least nationalistic



*Allonö, an old country seat which has achieved in the twentieth century the splendors forecast in the seventeenth by "Svecia Antiqua." French elegance and Swedish fantasy produce an unusually noble mansion*

nations of Europe, abandoned herself to an all-pervading national and romantic impulse, during the last ten years of the nineteenth century and the first twenty-five years of the twentieth, it was no mere cry of hollow patriotism, but an ideal of the deepest cultural significance.

Up to that time no Swedish architect—nor for that matter anyone else—had seemed consciously aware that there was anything distinctively Swedish about buildings in Sweden. Among the treatises and studies that scholars and artists were producing, scarcely any attempted to do more than point out the close relation of some Swedish manifestation with its corresponding artistic expression on the continent. This absence of self-conscious nationalistic effort was most fortunate and most valuable because it allowed free play to the impulse that created the treasures of the period which has since been labelled the Golden Age of Swedish art.

It was a true renaissance. All the arts found willing patrons. Commercial prosperity pervaded the country. The building arts especially flourished and grew vigorously, as they had done in previous centuries. The government was always sympathetic, and at times took the lead in fostering the movement by authorizing new official buildings. Old families were anxious to revive the ancient glories of their houses. New merchant princes were equally desirous of creating suitable backgrounds for their fortunes. Old country seats were rebuilt and refur-

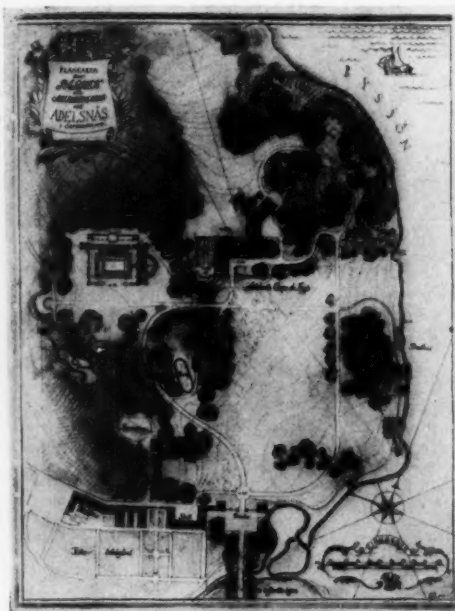


*The home of Carl Milles at Lidingö, where painted walls, marble columns, and granite steps and terraces drink in the summer sun and turn the mind to more southerly climes. The column is from the old opera house which was torn down*

nished. New estates and houses arose all over the country in the manner of the old. The splendid mansions that the architects, led by men like Lars Wahlman (b. 1870), Carl Westman (b. 1866), and Ragnar Östberg (b. 1866), were designing and constructing, constitute even more glowing testimonials to the artistic vitality of the movement than the novels, poems, paintings, statues, and handicrafts which appeared at the same time.

How easy it would have been for these men to shirk fundamental structure and to aim merely at formal stylistic effects, had not the survival of the Swedish building tradition enabled them to accommodate the ideals of this twentieth century Swedish renaissance to the requirements of modern life. They were accustomed to methods of thinking, working, and building which had become inherently Swedish through long use and were still present to temper enthusiasm with reality. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, one man had so stoutly championed the essential elements of this old tradition, that they became the foundation and he became the founder of the great period of Swedish architecture which flourished in the early twentieth century. His name was Isak Gustaf Clason (1856-1930).





*Adelsnäs in Östergötland, a modern country seat by the master hand of I. G. Clason, harmonizes with the solid and simple beauty of the Swedish landscape*

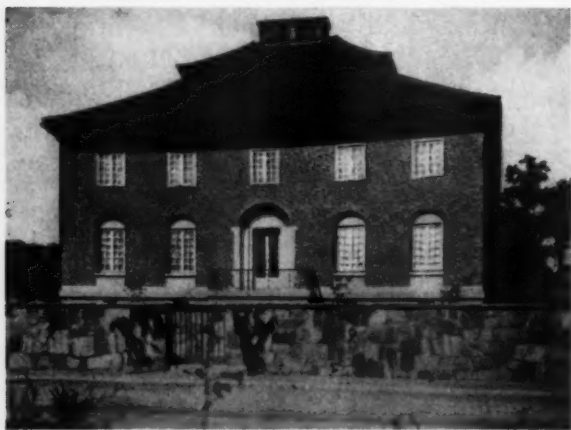
In the country seats he restored and in the buildings he erected, he freed Swedish architecture from the debased plaster ornament and stucco façades of the nineteenth century. By leading a crusade for the undisguised use of genuine building materials, he turned the minds of all to the use of native stone, brick, and wood. His canons reaffirmed the solid integrity of old Swedish building: let the wall disclose its natural substance, be it stone or brick; let ornament be carved in permanent materials or discarded altogether; fit the plan to its function and the façade to its plan; in no case allow structure to masquerade as anything but its true self. He taught and lectured, and in the end won the widest respect for these old but sound theories.

The Stockholm Exhibition of 1897, by a reconstruction of the buildings and life of the city in the days of the Vasa kings, showed the people a phase of their own national background. This marked the point at which the Swedish renaissance in building actually began. The old wooden houses that had already been assembled in natural surroundings on the nearby heights of Skansen outdoor museum recalled traditions and life of rural Sweden. Clason's Northern Museum stood adjacent, unfinished but dominant, ready to receive its priceless treasures garnered from all the countryside. From that moment, old Swedish expressions, from the late Gothic to the Vasa



*Brick and flowers, sculpture and an open sky create a strikingly beautiful harmony of architecture and nature in this corner of Diplomatstaden, Stockholm*

renaissance and later to the Caroline baroque, lent their spirit and details as the source of inspiration for practically all Swedish building.



*A mansion in Stockholm by Carl Westman in which the simple surfaces display the richness of the materials. The slight curve of the façade is noteworthy*

Yet, just as the exact copying of foreign styles has never been prevalent in Sweden, so there was no direct copying of her own monuments, for the movement remained strictly an art of building rather than an art of design. It is a striking fact that a blind acceptance of historical details was not allowed to block the way for improvements or to impede new ideas. The houses that were built in



*A Stockholm mansion by Ragnar Östberg. Every detail is subordinated to the proportion and mass of the building. The elegance of the effect is achieved by the color and texture of the tile roof, brick walls, iron balconies, and white window frames*

*Below is a court of the same house, so original in conception and effortless in execution that it is a jewel of its kind*

Sweden during these years disclose how true the statement is that the life of a house is the plan. These houses do not ignore the rich development of technical facilities and the desire for all modern conveniences. In fact, Sweden became a country second to none in Europe in the matter of kitchens, bathrooms, household electrical appliances, and central heating. For that time, the plans are





*The house of the Värmland Nation at Uppsala University, designed by Ragnar Östberg with all the finesse of that master in the use of materials, proportions, and fantasy*

models of comfort and convenience. On the other hand, these things do not exhaust the interest, but each individual house possesses some



*The entrance to the house of the Värmland Nation, having an almost miraculous beauty in the plain wall broken only by one door*

poetic or imaginative element that seems to belong to the lives of the householders. There is also a full realization that it is not enough for a house to be well designed, well constructed, and well adapted to its purpose, but it must be all three in a strict relation. At the same time the interest in materials and textures is free from all faddishness.

Two generations ex-





*For poetic relation of natural surroundings and building the Brännkyrka Parish House by Haakon Ahlberg has rarely been equalled. Big surfaces and simple lines are combined with keen discrimination in the decorative details*

pended their efforts in producing the buildings and other artistic treasures we admire so much today. Unsettled conditions abroad after the close of the Franco-Prussian war had forced many expatriated Swedish writers, painters, and architects to return to their native hearths. To many the journey home seemed a doom of exile after their lives in sunnier southern climes. But



*The main feature of this villa on Värmdö is the classic colonnade set in such idyllic fashion that it is almost perfect*



*A modern villa outside Stockholm, so finely set in its surroundings that even the garage becomes an attractive element in the whole*

soon the more energetic among them were surprised to discover that Sweden was not poor as they had supposed, but very rich indeed in source material for artistic expression. They saw that the neglect of their own and the adoration of foreign gods had of old been a sin of the Swedes—as some old monk had written on the wall of Riddarholm Church. Once this was realized, past neglect was atoned for by the zeal with which legends, documents, and forgotten monuments were brought to light.

The shelves in the houses that the architects were building were soon filled with volumes about the stirring figures of Sweden's past. The walls

were enlivened with canvases depicting the intimate beauty of the Swedish landscape and the habits of the people. In spite of the stubborn facts of building, to which there are no corresponding difficulties in literature or painting, the architects had soon outstripped their fellow artists. They were spurred on by the discoveries of the archeologists who revealed the artistic quality and worth of the historic monuments, and collaborated with the architects in preserving them. This work was carried on with sounder principles of restoration than had heretofore prevailed. All strove to isolate and reveal the nationally distinctive elements which previous archeological researchers had glossed over as foreign loans. The dearth of true artistic expression during the mechanical triumphs of the early and middle nineteenth century seemed only to have intensified their sensibility to the older values they were discovering.

Although architecture matured later than the other arts, its bonds

with the past were stronger, because the sturdy sinews of the Swedish building tradition which united it with the past were still unbroken. Brick and stone and timber made tangible, easily understood links with the buildings and builders of olden days. The supply and limitations of the available building



*Another villa near Stockholm, less pretentious, but notable for its classic calm and simplicity*

materials, together with the restrictions imposed by the rigorous northern climate, purged the architects' work of stylistic fantasy and unreality while it leavened the rising dough with a fresh and natural Swedish yeast.

When the early twentieth-century architects discovered with what harmony the Swedish landscape, the Swedish building materials, and the Swedish building tradition had been united, they knew they were on solid ground. All Sweden was entranced by their discoveries. A castle in Östergötland—or any other province that fancy might suggest—was invested with all the romance and glamour that had hitherto belonged to a dream castle in Spain. No detail in the whole gamut of Swedish buildings was overlooked in the avid study that was directed on them. The knowledge gained was not restricted to the experts. The people learned to perceive for the first time with a glow of pride how everything fitted into its proper place. There was no phase of the history of Swedish building that escaped their close scrutiny. They saw how the carved saint or martyr graced its altar, how the altar enhanced its apse, how the triumphal arch embraced the rood, or how the woven tapestry knew its wall. The Vasa castles lay clasped in their engirdling moats and battlements like jewelled diadems. The country seats of the age of the Charles Kings spread their projecting wings, garden terraces, hedges, and boat harbors around them like princesses sitting for their portraits, attended by their maids in waiting. The perfect balance of space and color in the salons and chambers of the



*Hill-top houses at Lorensberg, Gothenburg, showing a beautiful relation of site and materials. The luxuriant vegetation is used to best advantage*

rococo and the Gustavian ages still echoed to the patter of dancing slippers and coquettish whispers behind painted Chinese fans. All this, in fancy and in reality, pervaded the building arts of the beginning twentieth century. It makes a romantic and glamorous picture, but its leaders rarely forgot the natural relation that must always exist between the free arts, architecture, and the handicrafts. This kept them from excess in any one direction.

Today, after forty years, most of the historical ideals animating building have themselves become historical. The mansions of present-day Sweden are beginning to reflect the slender strength and beauty that are inherent in the technical structure of the airplane, ocean liner, and automobile. New figures are appearing. The new age has a high mark to reach if it is to have a flowering as glorious as the age that is now declining, or if it is to solve more successfully the age-old problem of beauty and utility.



# My Childhood's Church

By TORSTEN FOGELQVIST

ON THE WAY through life, which sometimes returns on itself in a circle and sometimes goes back and forth, it happens that I rest for a moment in the green shade of the maples around Hedvig's church and parsonage at Norrköping. That which draws me cannot be better expressed than by the well-known lines of Karlfeldt:

*Här vil min oro sova  
i det förgångnas ro.  
Här är var sten dess minnesvård.  
I lunden kring min faders gård  
bor det som andaktsdova  
heliga psalmackord.*

(Here shall my unrest slumber  
in the quiet of bygone days.  
Here every stone is a memento of them.  
Among the trees around my father's house  
they dwell like solemnly hushed  
sacred chords of a hymn.)

Hedvig's church in Norrköping is not one of our classically beautiful church monuments with medieval ancestors of Romanesque or Gothic race. She is a respectable bourgeois matron from the seventeenth century, grown up in the trading center as a meeting-house for the industrious Germans who sought their livelihood in the city by Motala River. She is still called "Tyskan," and there she sits, broad in the beam and phlegmatic, by the German Market, like an elderly matron who looks on unruffled at modern traffic and business. When I say she sits, I mean just that. Hedvig is too old to stand and too young to lie down. She has never lost her head in airy and beautiful dreams. She does not belong to that period of greatness in our history which is characterized by "tattered banners," but to that in which mill-wheels and forges dominate. Nor is there any possibility that she should have the appellation "Saint" added to her name, like her brethren of Olai or Johanna, unless indeed the late blessed patroness of the church, Queen Hedvig Eleonora, Mother of the Charleses, should be canonized, which is not very probable.

But my childhood's church does not need hagiographer or genealogist in order to hold her place in the world of my memories. The trumpet-

blowing gilded angel which creaked in the storm round the top of the spire was the first aerial creature that caught my fancy. The organ-blower and the tower watchman of the church belong to the fairy tale world which was opened to me by Topelius and Andersen, and I was almost dizzy with joy when I was allowed to climb up into the tower with the bell-ringer and see the old bell swinging and pealing over the quick and the dead.

The church-loft, where the rats would scurry off to hide under rubbish and relics, first made real to me the mysterious idea of a treasure trove. Suggestive, too, was the dim light in Pehr Hörberg's altar painting where the Master, by the mysterious glow of a lantern, showed the wound in his side to a doubting Thomas. And it was this rustic painter who, together with Gustave Doré, lifted the veil from the world of images in sacred art. Nor do I forget the Apostle to the Gentiles and him of Revelation as they made their entrance with sword and eagle into the stained glass of the chancel windows, nor the peculiar colors of the Easter sunlight as it was refracted in the cool green mantle of Paul or the hot purple one of John. Moses, who upheld the entire pulpit, has since succumbed to rheumatism and is now lodged in the town museum. It is doubtful whether he will ever see service again.

To the simple picture gallery of my childhood's church belong also some portraits of former clergymen, then hidden away, now more prominently displayed. I remember especially the portrait of the stiff-robed and gloomily serious Præpositur Reinerus Broocman. He looked like an illustration to the hymn of faith, "A mighty fortress is our God," sterner than my father; and he became to me the first incarnation, as it were, of Lutheranism. Actually he was one of those who had to labor and build on the burned site after the ravages of the Russians in the region of Norrköping, when the anger of the Lord smoked against the land and flames burst from the roof of Hedvig's church. The church soon rose again from the ashes, but the beautiful tower which the eighteenth-century restorers designed, and which later donors dreamed about, was never built. Fortunately. For the funny squat tower with its little spire which seemed rather lost is a feature that makes up by its individual character for its lack of beauty, and enlivens the rather stiff and decorous silhouette of the town.

It was a matter of course that the minister's children always went to church. They lived in the moods of the church year, learned the difference between the jubilant note of Christmas matins and the deep calm in the subdued vespers of Good Friday, between the darkness of doomsday Sunday and the white stillness of Advent. I knew a tenth

part of Wallin's hymn-book before I was sent to primary school. I was quite small when I had the job of turning the leaves for an aunt of Chancellor Swartz, a venerable lady attired with old-fashioned elegance. From the pew I was removed to the hosanna choir in the organ-loft, where I could see the organ-blower at his work and hear the organist, Knut Leopold Dahlström, a country genius who would have been worthy of a cathedral position, intone his beautiful preludes in which he fused violin and brass and opened to me the door to eternal harmonies.

From my childhood's church many memories flow—of law and gospel, of wedding stir and funeral solemnity, to say nothing of the many types that were caught by a boyish eye and fitted into a boyish world of ideas, as they walked up the aisles and took their places in the pews. There one might learn to distinguish between true piety and Sunday christianity, between the poor in spirit and the scribes and elders. There one could see the Pharisee and the publican, the rich man and Lazarus, the good Samaritan, the unjust steward, the woman taken in adultery, the daughter of Jairus, Nicodemus and Pilate, Nathanael and Judas Iscariot. They had all become citizens of Norrköping. In this congregation spectrum there stirred the beginnings of a knowledge of human nature and of psychological understanding.

Among all the church services there is one that stands out in my memory—the Christmas prayer on Christmas Eve. It was a devotional pause in the materialistic Christmas celebration. It laid a quieting hand on curiosity and desire. The church was lit with a quiet glow. In the market outside there was still some eleventh-hour shopping. Lanterns of horn, of glass, and of paper cast a flickering light over booths piled with ginger cookies or playthings. The air was filled with whirling snowflakes, and through the dusk the old bell rang a solemn memento over the vain wishes and petty pleasures of the hour. In the church there was assembled—not the motley crowd of Christmas matins greeting the beautiful morning with the traditional festivity of light and song, as something to be done and gotten over with—but a congregation of those that labor and are heavy laden, who had no Christmas preparations to encumber them, but sought an evening's quiet in order to win the peace which passeth all understanding. They sang their Christmas hymn as if it came from the heart:

“And if the world much greater were,  
With gold and pearls all bright and clear,  
Yet were it all too poor and mean  
To be a bed for Thee, I ween.”

And after the song was ended we went home to the tree and the coffee and the presents, and we were at peace, no longer full of clamorous wishes, but satisfied even if—as we had been told—there should be less of glitter and goodies and presents than the year before.

The Christmas shopping on the German Market is now no longer what it used to be. The stores have taken the glory away from it. Organization and advertising have sucked the sap from fairy tale and mystery. Christmas has been industrialized. The big wishes have far outstripped the modest wants. Hedvig's church has lost her old sister on the market place, the ancient town hall. A new town hall has risen with a grand and massive brick tower. The small spire on the church tower has lost its zest for competition. St. Olov on his judge's bench looks down on the trumpet-blowing angel. The angel flies low these days. But still he flies, flies in the wind and shines in the sun. And the old bell, which used to sing, sings yet. She has even a younger sister for company and to sing with her. And I have myself been entrusted with the task of writing the words for that song, which in all modesty runs as follows:

Sing for our town and all good people living there.  
Sing unto God praise, and to men faith and safety blest.  
Sing for those who tread the rainbow bridge of prayer.  
Sing our weary dust to sleep, our soul to everlasting rest.







Göteborg

Five Drawings  
of  
**SWEDEN**  
by  
Thornton Oakley



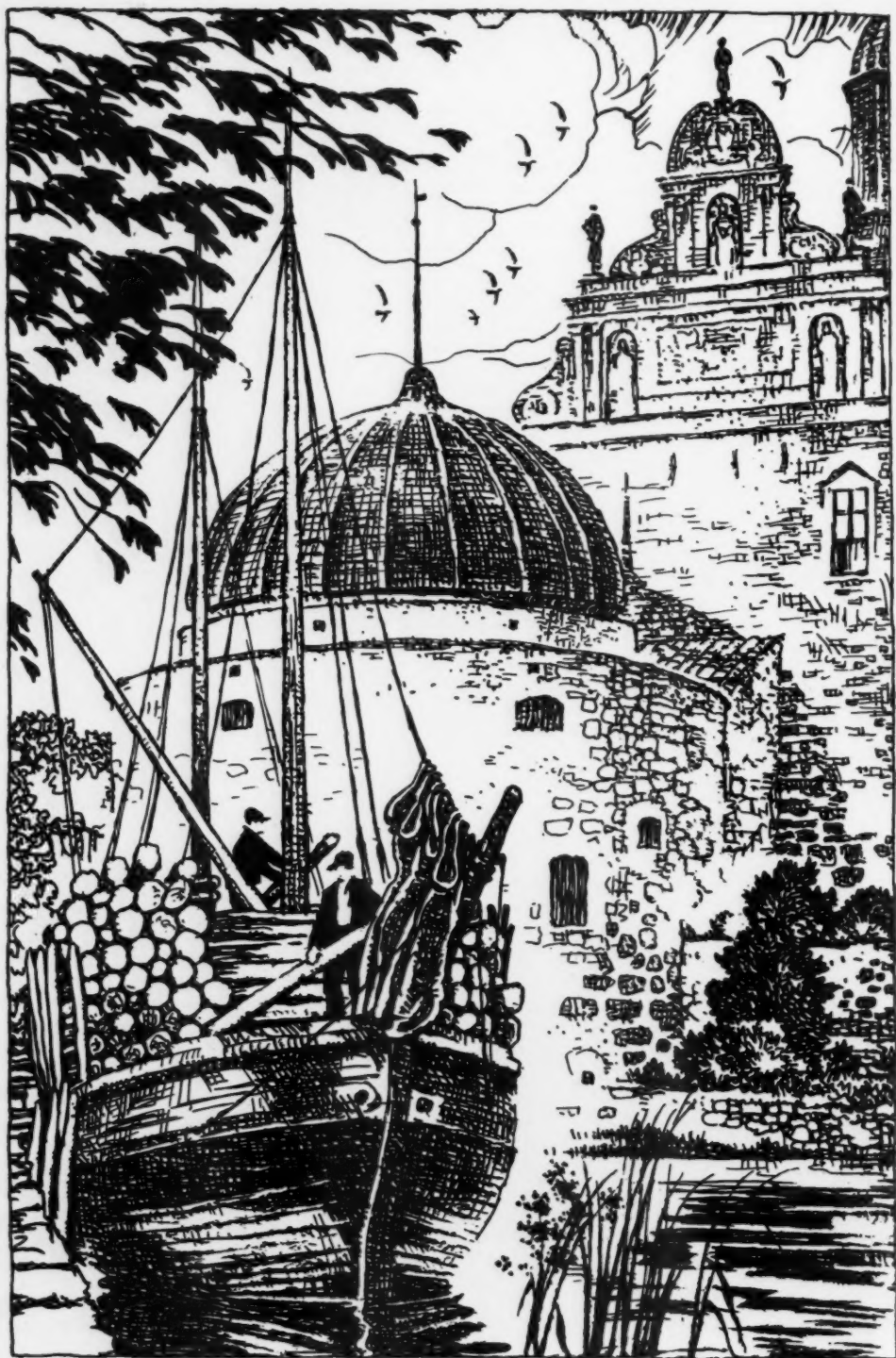
Modern, democratic, constructive  
in solution of the problems of  
mankind, Sweden yet conserves  
an old-time atmosphere strikingly her  
own



Dalarna :   
Costumes are gay at Leksand



Dalarna • † † †  
Sunday at Rättvik •

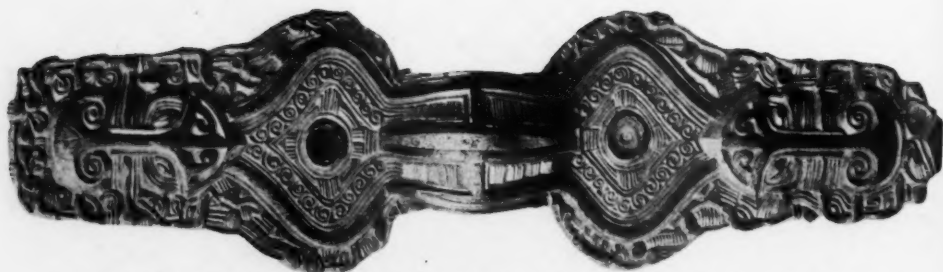


Vadstena :  
The castle of Gustavus Vasa





**The Isle of Öland :**  
Windmills of ancient days



*A Brooch of Bronze from the Merovingian Period of the Swedish Iron Age*

## Art for the Tercentenary

**E**XACTLY TWENTY-FIVE years ago the American-Scandinavian Foundation financed and organized an exhibition of contemporary Scandinavian art, which made history. It was not only the first collective exhibition from any of the Scandinavian countries ever brought to American shores, but it showed for the first time here many artists who had already an international reputation. It was opened in New York, was sent as far west as Chicago, and seen by a very large number of people.

It would not be true to say that the reception was everywhere favorable. Some critics thought the artists of the North were crude, they were not "in love with loveliness," did not "caress paint." On the other hand, their vigor, honesty, and brilliance won much praise, and the very remarkable amount of publicity attending the exhibition helped to break the ice of ignorance and indifference.

Since then, the sympathy and understanding between America and the Scandinavian countries has grown in the field of art, as in other fields. Several later exhibitions, notably from Sweden, have prepared the way for the Swedish Tercentenary Art Exhibit, which opened in New York, September 23, and which inaugurated the festivities in honor of the Tercentenary of Swedish emigration to the United States. Beautifully mounted and displayed in several spacious rooms in

Rockefeller Center, the exhibition, though spanning over many forms of art, conveyed just that graciousness and harmony which is appropriate to a great commemorative occasion.

The object of the exhibition has been to touch the highlights of Swedish art through thousands of years—as far back as there is anything known about it. One suspects that many conflicting opinions must have been threshed out before achieving the astonishingly full and well rounded exhibition that we now see. It is in three distinct divisions: prehistoric and medieval art; peasant art; and modern painting.

The prehistoric is perhaps the department most revealing to the American visitor. The oldest piece is an arrowhead from the Bone Age, supposed to date from about 6000 B.C. The Neolithic Age is represented by a number of stone and flint axes, spearheads, and daggers; the Bronze Age, by exquisitely formed weapons and ornaments. From the Viking Age there are some ornate articles of silver, bronze, and gold as well as several veritable and genuine rune-stones. As an example of Christian medieval art there is a church door having rich iron mountings with patterns of animals that clearly derive from the older pagan art.

In entering the department of peasant art, the American is on more familiar ground. The carved and painted furniture,



*Portrait of the Widow of Admiral Appelbom*

*By Georg Desmarées*

household utensils, and horse trappings are such as fill many rooms in the Northern Museum at Stockholm, and their patterns have been copied. They are eloquent testimony to the good taste of the old craftsmen. Having few articles of pure adornment, the peasants lavished their artistic efforts on making useful objects beautiful.

Partly for use and partly for adorn-

ment are the textiles of which the exhibition contains a number, both rugs and wall hangings. As the nearest ancestors to the picture weavings of modern Sweden, there are some covers for carriage cushions woven in soft, mellow colors and in elaborate patterns with flowers, animals, and human figures.

Very interesting and unique are the painted wall hangings which Swedish



*Acme News Pictures*

*A Room in the Exhibition at Rockefeller Center, Containing a Part of the Peasant Art*

peasants have developed in great variety. They represent biblical, historical, or allegorical scenes. It is claimed that the artists have to some extent found their types in sixteenth-century Bible illustrations or in fashion books from the early nineteenth century. The result is that we meet the Three Wise Men or the Wise and Foolish Virgins—favorite subjects, possibly because of their adaptability for friezes—attired in the costumes of the artist's own time or a little earlier. Though the figures are conventionalized, the effect of the painting as a whole is one of life and spirit. The colors are generally attractive, at once bright and mellow. The best known of these painted wall hangings are from Dalecarlia, though there is also a South Swedish school. Both are represented by many examples in the exhibition, most of them dating from the late

eighteenth or the middle of the nineteenth century.

The third department, that of painting, covers two hundred and fifty years, from 1650 to 1900. It begins with Ehrenstrahl, called "the father of Swedish painting," and his nephew David von Krafft, both born in Hamburg. Among the oldest of the painters born in Sweden was Georg Desmarées whose painting of *Amiralskan Appelbom*, widow of one of Charles XII's admirals, is reproduced here as one of the fine examples of Swedish portraiture.

From the eighteenth century we find the brilliant portraits by Roslin, Pilo, and Pasch. Surely the men of this generation were "in love with loveliness" and knew how to "caress paint." There are landscapes by Elias Martin, and interiors by Per Hilleström which portray the elegant artificiality of Gustavian society.



The first half of the nineteenth century was a bourgeois period not distinguished by the grander forms of art, but toward the end of the period there was a new turning toward rustic subjects and romantic idealization of the simple life. There are several characteristic pictures of this period, among which we notice the charming *Midsummer Dance at Rättvik* by Kilian Zoll and *The Bridal Homecoming at Lake Hornavan, Lapland*, by Höckert.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century there came a brilliant outburst of genius which is still unrivalled. The artists who in France had learned the value of outdoor painting returned to invigorate the art of their homeland. The men of this generation were, many of them, seen here twenty-five years ago. They are a little unevenly represented in the Tercentenary Exhibit. There is, for instance, only one canvas by Prince Eugen, the popular *The Cloud*, and only one by Björck, the well known portrait of Prince

Eugen at his easel. By Josephson there are only two, but these give us two widely different phases of his many-sided genius, the joyous, vigorous *Spanish Blacksmiths* and the subtle, delicate portrait of a lady carrying a bouquet in her gloved hands. Zorn is well represented with eleven canvases; most of them are his favorite Dalecarlian subjects, but one, depicting Coquelin cadet, the French actor, is an example of his portraiture at its best. Carl Larsson is represented by both genre and portrait painting; Liljefors, by several of his bird pictures.

The committee has wisely included two artists of a purely personal type belonging to no school, the mystic symbolist Olof Sager-Nelson and the poetic painter Ivar Arosenius. Both these two promising artists died young. Each is represented by one canvas, and they serve to round out the exhibition which, within its compass, has succeeded remarkably well in giving a general survey of Swedish art.

## Edvard Grieg

BY CHARLES WHARTON STORK

THE LIGHT across the fjord is very cool  
 Tonight, and in the fading summer sky  
 The blue is softer than forget-me-nots.  
 The fjord itself, too—what a delicate green,  
 What an elusive, nixie-laving green,  
 Caressed with silver! From its dusky rim  
 Rise mighty rock-wall bastions, harsh enough,  
 Except that down their craggy shoulders hang

Thin veins of waterfalls—one still can see  
Where the white threads meander on the black.  
Beyond, one guesses rather than discerns  
The shimmering snow-peaks, more like frozen clouds  
Or spellbound pinions of the cherubim  
Than any shape of earth.

I love all this  
With passion that can sink me in a swoon  
For hours. And yet I think I love still more  
The little fringe of human life that parts  
The fjord-side from the foot of the great cliffs.  
The apple orchards are in fullest bloom,  
And I can fancy what the day would show;  
That on the squat log huts the sodded roofs  
Are purple with wild pansies. By the shore  
The sturdy rowboats are unlading piles  
Of glinting salmon, while from time to time  
I hear the clank of cowbells. Peace is here  
And purity and strength, no less in folk  
Than landscape, and my heart breathes ecstasy  
So deep, so different from all else the world  
Can give, that often sadness weighs me down.

No words, no colors can do more than hint  
The soul of Norway, with its hero tales,  
Its fairy legends, the adventure last,  
The iron loyalty, the pastoral calm  
Kindled with exaltation—all around  
Beauty of earth and sea and air, half bright.  
Half somber, like this evening on the fjord:  
And human love, transfigured, rarified  
To something more of spirit than of flesh.

There is a music seems to hover here  
Unheard, a presence rather than a sound.  
Or do invisible fingers trail across  
Aeolian chords within me? All I know  
Is that sometimes, like spirits of the wind,  
Strange little wisps of melody float up  
From my heart's chamber, by no will of mine,  
And I can catch them, living, behind bars  
On a white page. When others let them out,  
People may say, "Why, here's a novel use  
Of minor modulation." But a few,  
Listening in silence then, may let their thoughts  
Go dreaming far away across the sea,  
Till in a mingled mood of wistful joy  
And meditative sadness they behold  
The very scene I look on here tonight.

# Hamlet at Kronborg

BY ELSE MERRILD

"SCENE 1. ELSINORE. A platform before the Castle."

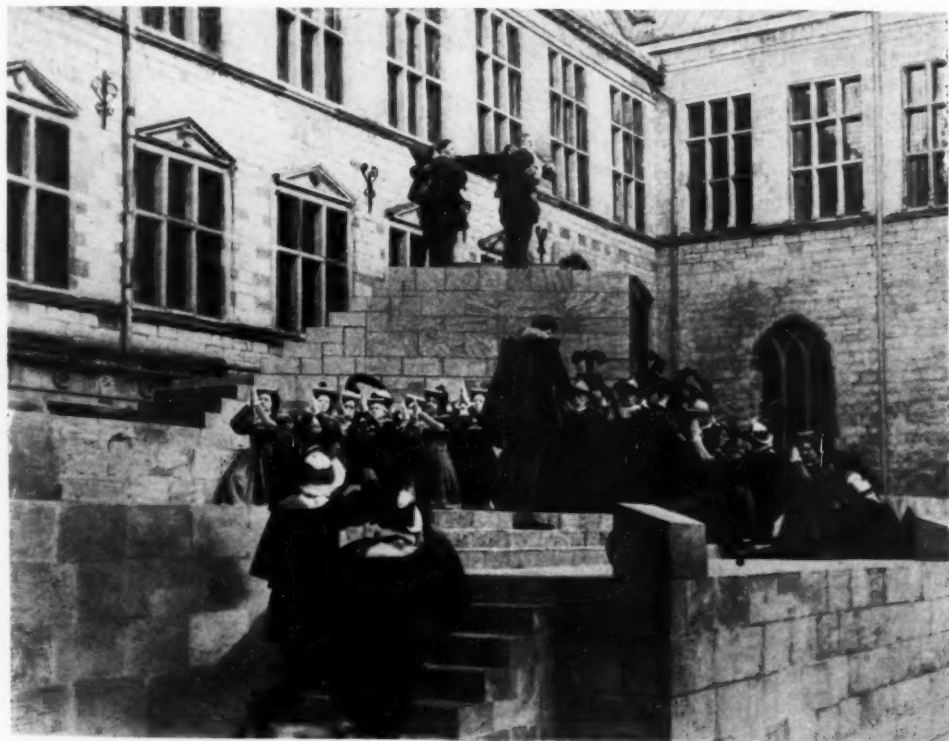
So read the stage directions in Shakespeare's immortal tragedy, and for the first time in history they were carried out to the letter, when the famous Old Vic company from London played *Hamlet* for six unforgettable days at his beautiful old castle, Kronborg.

The platform was put up along one whole side of the big castle yard—a vast, bare stage, built to several different heights, with a network of visible and invisible stairs, which were used with magnificent scenic effect. The only sets were the fine old walls and green roofs of the castle. And

above it all was the bright, promising summer sky, like an integral part of the whole majestic arrangement—and the only part which did not fill its place to entire satisfaction.

Indeed, the weather gods were singularly ungracious. But actors and audience defied them with all their might. A mere shower was nothing; everybody was prepared. The evenings were chilly; and polar outfits had been brought forth. Twice, however, the performances had to be called off on account of the steady rain. On the other hand, thanks to the rain, people had another rare experience.

It was the first night. The weather had



*The Closing Scene, Where Hamlet Is Borne Away. In the Center of the Stage Horatio*

*Hamlet and Ophelia*

been gloomy all day—but people were hoping and relying on the weather man who had promised that it would clear up. Then, just one hour before the performance was to begin, the storm broke loose. The coasts of Sweden disappeared in darkness and the rain fell in torrents. It was too late to call off the play. Over two thousand spectators were on their way by special trains and cars. No theater in the town was vacant. The only available hall was the ballroom of the fashionable seaside hotel Marienlyst, a mile or so away. But these Englishmen did not think twice about it. Actors and costumes were rushed over to the hotel and the play was given in the crowded room before the eyes of an exclusive and amazed audience, who had set out to become one great experience the richer—and succeeded, albeit somewhat differently from what they had anticipated.

All the primitive scenery, the actors, coming and going through the audience, a steady stream of classical costumes, flying plumes, the clinking of spurs and weapons

in the modern mirrored hall with its fashionably dressed audience . . . the King's ghost chatting out in the hall with two little Helsingör girls . . . the dazzling performance of the actors, as they stood there close to the spectators and entirely unmoved by the unusual arrangement, gave their best . . . Ophelia, playing her mad scene a few feet in front of Prince Knud and Princess Caroline Mathilde—was this not the Shakespearean theater of Shakespeare's own day, when the traveling players came to a strange town, clapped their booth together in a hurry, and acted with all that was in them?

But there was sunshine too. And if the evening at Marienlyst was an experience of an unusual and unconventional nature, not likely to be met with again, the performances at Kronborg were no less unique in their harmonious completeness and perfection.

As the last rays of the sun glide over the green spires and towers, Francisco keeps watch on Hamlet's castle. And as

*Polonius and Ophelia*



darkness falls, the great stage and the masonry of the castle melt into one whole. The ghost appears in the mysterious twilight on the stage followed by the invisible ghosts of Kronborg itself—the legendary figures of ages past. A faint odor of age from the damp stones of the castle mingles with the fresh sea air from the Sound beyond. The flood-lights become more and more powerful, drawing the different figures out of the dusk in a peculiarly gentle way, for the summer night is bright and even objects outside the stage stand out in pale, ghostly silhouette. The speeches break the last semblance of reality. This strong, beautiful verse carrying everything along with it in the power of its rhythm makes us forget Francisco's modern colleague, the sentry with his gun and bayonet on the bastion yonder, the automobile that brought us here, the cranes and motor ships in the harbor a few hundred yards from the castle. . . . All that is left is Kronborg and Kronborg's great contemporary, Shakespeare.

The twenty-five hundred people who were present at each of these performances, which lasted three and a half hours, were breathless with rapture. The audi-

torium was silent as a tomb. Only Shakespeare's language filled the space, and every word hung in the air as though held there by the old walls. Even between the acts there was little conversation; people left like a funeral procession, after having given expression to their enthusiasm, and only slowly recovered their voices.

It was a distinguished company that interpreted *Hamlet* at Kronborg. And the most distinguished of all was the man who played Hamlet, Laurence Olivier—a Hamlet who dominated this whole vast stage, thoroughly at home there, and after two performances of three and a half hours each in one day, as dazzling, fiery, and untamable as ever. An English correspondent expressed the opinion that the interpreter of Hamlet must have been inspired by the historical background of the place. And this indeed seems probable. Whether Laurence Olivier has ever played the Prince of Denmark better than he did at Kronborg, I do not know. But I do not think it could be possible. Vivien Leigh was a gracious Ophelia.

We hope that this guest performance may be the beginning of a tradition, and efforts are being made to this end.

# A New Biography of Charles XII

BY GURLI HERTZMAN-ERICSON

**I**N THE FLOOD of new books each year, there are always a few that stand out. These few are not the ones which merely present a faithful picture of a milieu, a family, or a period. They are those books which by reason of the author's grasp of his subject and his ability to take a long view acquire something of that timeless quality without which no work can long endure.

FRANS G. BENGTSSON's two-volume life of Charles XII with its nine hundred pages stands alone. To be sure, it is not the length of a book that determines its destiny. But *Charles XII* is a noble work. One reads it from the first page to the last with unflagging interest. There are certain passages, especially in the second part, which perhaps only an officer can fully appreciate. But these expert accounts of battles and strategic marches are the necessary accompaniment of that line of march which led from the barren Swedish countryside across Europe and into those semi-Asiatic tracts where a mighty army and an empire whirled away and disappeared like a wind over the steppes. What one admires in Frans G. Bengtsson is not merely his erudition, his skill in hammering out the metal of speech in sounding rhythms, and his capacity to assimilate the historical material, but rather his power to paint a vivid and harmonious portrait of an almost legendary figure who has stood closer to the heart of the Swedish people than any other. In an age of compromise, shoddiness, and utilitarianism, he turns to a man who in his tragic greatness approaches the heroic, a man who never haggled or made terms with justice, and who always remained the strong man however ill his lot. Statecraft seldom co-exists with morality, and consequently the life of Charles XII became the tragic

drama of a man of honor amongst a band of crowned brigands who spoke another language from his.

The author shows us how the soul of the young prince is formed from his earliest childhood years, how it takes on impressions from the environment and yet retains its inalienable stamp of loftiness and integrity, traits of character which grow stronger rather than weaker during the two war years when it became the dismal fate of Charles XII to lead his people and his country toward their ruin. For a brief period this little country far up in the north shone like a flaming meteor, which describes its curve across the vault of heaven and is just as quickly extinguished—a country which a fifteen-year-old boy received as his kingdom, a country which little by little and century by century had broadened out and grown in greatness, not through marriage or inheritance, but by long and honest travail with plough and axe and sword. This country which he loved and which he desired to protect from predatory neighbors, he left at the age of eighteen and did not see again for fifteen long years, years in which a chapter of world history was written.

Charles XII was a boy whose chief pleasure was in hunting bears in the forest at Kungsör when word came that the Saxon forces had crossed the boundary of Lifland. Shortly after this the King of Denmark invaded Holstein and a few months later came Czar Peter's declaration of war. The tocsins rang and the bitter times ripened the youth to manhood.

Faithfully the author follows him in battle and in camp, all the long way through Germany, Poland, the Baltic provinces, and into Russia where the ominous twilight thickens. He may criticize him and wonder about his motive, but

what he has constantly before his eyes is the hero, the morally invincible, the strong, lonely man whose destiny was fulfilled beneath relentless stars—a man who demanded much of others, but still more of himself, a man who never stooped to the luxury and fastidiousness of contemporary princes, but remained a soldier among soldiers, the comrade who shared the hardships of camp life with his men and ate their simple fare. And yet he does not become in Frans G. Bengtsson's picture a remote or hazy ideal; he stands out as a human being with a sense of humor and of reality and with a rare fidelity not only to ideas but also to his fellow men.

Charles XII has been accused of having led his people to their ruin, but was he not perhaps a tool in the service of higher powers? With irrefutable logic the author points out how after Narva his stars were on the wane and how events and accidents conspired together in a manner approaching the tragedies of fate in ancient literature. If the weather had been different, if a trifling misunderstanding had been removed, the outcome might have been quite another. Even at the siege of Poltava the situation which Charles was patiently trying to create was ultimately realized, "but an ironical fate had permitted the realization to take place only as a consequence of the King's inability to profit from the great chance for which he had striven." When his strategical skill was most needed, the King was sick unto death and his field marshals were at loggerheads.

So the brave little Swedish people wandered on to destruction, but even in



*Frans G. Bengtsson*

their ruin a kind of legendary glamour and an indomitable courage shone from their pale faces.

The Swedish Empire fell asunder, finally destroyed by a bullet at Fredrikshall, and a new age began forthwith. "But," says Frans G. Bengtsson, "the mighty hero of the war slept, unmoved by all that came after, sublimely tranquil in the bronze of his sarcophagus, as though he had been immortalized in a state of lofty indifference and irrevocable peace. He had entered, as one of the last and greatest, into the kingdom where dwell the masters by the grace of God."

# THE QUARTER'S HISTORY



**SWEDEN**

NEW STRONG EVIDENCES of an ever growing and deepening Scandinavianism appeared in Sweden in the fall. Most significant and far-reaching was the largest single donation ever made by a Swede during his lifetime—a gift totaling some 30,000,000 kronor—which was announced in Stockholm by Axel Wenner-Gren, head of the Electrolux concern, and his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Wenner-Gren. The fund will be known as the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the annual interest, currently estimated at over 1,000,000 kronor, will be used to further scientific research, primarily in the realms of social science, natural science, economics, and medicine. The results thus obtained, the donors hope, will help increase trade, promote public health, and widen the understanding of social problems. It is Mr. Wenner-Gren's especial wish that research sponsored by the Foundation may serve to bring the Scandinavian countries yet closer together by promoting their independence and prosperity.

"Cooperation and understanding between the Scandinavian countries," Mr. Wenner-Gren said, announcing the donation, "is of enormous importance in these upset times, not least along economic lines. I admit that to materialize the idea of solidarity is difficult. However, if one takes a broad, unprejudiced view, it is evident that our national fates are linked together, and that we must combine our forces for mutual efforts. We hope that the scientific researches made by the Foundation will shed light on such and similar questions and conditions. Thereby a sound foundation will be laid, not only for cooperation in trade and commerce,

but for the protection of a free society and its priceless assets. . . . In these turbulent times it seems to us that the funds should primarily be used for such projects that promote unity within our country and unity within Scandinavia."

The fact that Mr. Wenner-Gren specifically included every Scandinavian nation in his bequest, caused much favorable comment, in Sweden as well as in the brother countries. Typical of this sentiment was the announcement by Professor P. O. Pedersen, head of the Danish Technical College, in Copenhagen, who stressed the wisdom of the donors in making the Foundation an agency for the benefit of all Scandinavia. Dr. Thorvald Madsen, head of the Serum Institute in Copenhagen, said, "If the means which annually will be placed at disposal by the Foundation are wisely used, they may possibly achieve greater significance than even the scientific Nobel Prizes." In a similar vein spoke the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rudolf Holsti, who said, "We are very grateful to have been remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Wenner-Gren, who long have been friends of Finland." Many expressions of satisfaction and enthusiasm also came from Norway.

The Foundation is to be governed by a board, the members of which are, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Wenner-Gren, Torsten Nothin, Civil Governor of Stockholm; Sigfrid Hansson, a brother of the Prime Minister and head of the government Social Service Board; Torsten Hérnod, President of the Swedish Cellulose Company, Gustaf Sahlin, of the Electrolux Company, and Professor Carl Curman, State Antiquarian. Legal representative is Sven Salmonson, a Stockholm lawyer, while Baron Robert von Rosen is treasurer.

Although the present donation ranks supreme of its kind in Sweden, Mr. Wen-



ner-Gren previously has made other large bequests for scientific research. Thus the Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental and Physiological Chemistry at the Stockholm University, now nearing completion, is being constructed chiefly with funds donated by Mr. Wenner-Gren. He originally gave a sum of 400,000 kronor for this building, to which he recently added 150,000 kronor. The Rockefeller Foundation contributed 404,000 kronor.

PURSuing ITS "GOOD NEIGHBOR" POLICY, the Swedish Social-Democratic administration in the fall turned its attention to the Swedish and Finnish communities on both sides of the Torne River, which forms the border between the two countries. The Finnish Foreign Minister, Rudolf Holsti, and the Minister of Education, Uuno Hannula, were invited to join the Swedish Foreign Minister, Rickard J. Sandler, and Minister of Cults and Education, Arthur Engberg, on an inspection trip to the remote and sparsely populated Torne Valley. The purpose was to gain a first-hand impression of the local school situation. Since the question of bi-lingualism is an acute one in Finland, the journey was watched with interest on both sides of the Gulf of Bothnia. Everywhere the Ministers were greeted with warmth and enthusiasm. Thanks to long daily meetings with teachers and principals, many educational problems were aired in harmony and to the benefit of all parties. The novel and interesting excursion received a sympathetic press. Typical of several statements was that appearing in the newspaper *Arbetet*, which read in part: "The Finnish-speaking population in Sweden was treated to something as rare as meeting a Swedish Foreign Minister, who could speak to them in their own language. Attention should be called to this Torne Valley visit in the large capitals of Europe. It is one of those Scandinavian examples, which are of great significance."

YET ANOTHER EVIDENCE of a more intimate Scandinavianism was the recent announcement of the *Nya Dagligt Allehanda*, Conservative Stockholm evening newspaper, of a prize competition for the best history of the Scandinavian countries. "There is no doubt about it," the paper commented editorially, "that a lack of knowledge of Sweden's history among the great masses has contributed to sharpen the contrasts within our own people. The even greater lack of knowledge of the history of Scandinavia has been of fateful consequence to the relations between our peoples." This condition, the paper emphasized, can best be remedied by the publication of a new history of Scandinavia, a lively, authoritative, unprejudiced "reading book" and not a "learning book," as the *Nya Dagligt Allehanda* expressed it. The product of the winner of the first prize will be translated into all the other Scandinavian languages and simultaneously published in every Scandinavian country.



THE GREAT STREAM BRIDGE, which with its approaches is the longest bridge in Europe, was officially opened by King Christian on His Majesty's birthday, September 26. The bridge is an important link in connecting Denmark with points south. In the Continental route, the passage between the islands of Sjælland and Falster has always been the weakest point—the Achilles heel so to speak. In the middle of the stream but nearer to the Sjælland side lies the tiny island Masnedö. On the north side of the island the sound is narrow enough to be bridged easily, and this was done as early as 1884, but on the south side Storstrømmen—the Great Stream—was more troublesome. It has been necessary to convey both trains and automobiles on a



*The Great Stream Bridge Seen from the Sjælland Side, the Tiny Island Masnedö in the Center*

ferry, while at the same time there was not room enough to use large ferry-boats.

With the fabulous growth of the motor traffic, conditions became almost intolerable. In the traffic year 1934-35, 383,000 persons, 260,000 tons of freight, and 35,000 motor vehicles were ferried over. The daily express train with its mail cars and passenger coaches always required at least two ferries and often three.

A project for bridging the passage has therefore been under discussion for many years, but it met resistance from the Jutland representatives in the Rigsdag. It was not before the bridge across Little Belt from Fyn to Jutland was well under way that it was possible to get an appropriation for the Great Stream. The Little Belt bridge was opened in 1935 and has greatly facilitated the route from Copenhagen over Esbjerg and Harwich to London. The new bridge will do the same for the route across Gedser and Warnemünde to Berlin.

As the bridge now stands, it is part of a long highway construction beginning far up in Sjælland, running in large, smooth curves to the city of Vordingborg on the south coast, crossing first the narrow sound to Masnedö and then the Great Stream to the Falster shore, where a twelve-hundred-foot pier runs out into the water.

The bridge itself is 10,432 feet long. It was built from the designs of the Danish State Railways by the English firm Dorman, Long and Company, cooperating with the Danish engineering firm Christiani and Nielsen. The steel construction is based on forty-nine concrete pillars resting directly on the bottom of the waterway, which at the center has a depth of forty-five feet. The height from the surface of the water to the lower edge of the bridge in the central part is eighty-four feet. There are three passages for ships, the middle one having a span of 443 feet and the other two 331 feet. The bridge,

in addition to its single railroad track, has a sixteen-foot roadway, a cyclists' lane, and a path for pedestrians.

The surroundings of the Great Stream bridge are not so picturesque as those of the immensely popular bridge across Little Belt. Nevertheless the bright waters of the sound between the low, pleasant shores of Sjælland and Falster have a charm that will appeal to the visitor, and the great length of the construction is in itself impressive.

THE OPENING of the Great Stream Bridge was attended by about 50,000 people who gathered at Vordingborg on the Sjælland side. Besides King Christian, Crown Prince Frederik, Crown Princess Ingrid and other members of the royal family, there were many distinguished visitors from abroad. These included Mr. Oliver Stanley, president of the British Board of Trade, Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, and Dr. Julius Dorpmüller, director of the German State Railways.

King Christian rode at the front in the train which crossed the bridge after cutting the symbolic ribbon that was stretched across the track. A few minutes later the traffic was declared free, and all day long cars and foot passengers poured in over the bridge. Before the day was over, more than ten thousand automobiles had crossed. King Christian in his speech stressed the importance of this new link between the different parts of Denmark as well as between Denmark and her southern neighbor, Germany. Mr. Peter Knutzen, general director of the State Railways, and Mr. J. Fisker, minister of transportation, officiated at the dedication of the new bridge station on the Sjælland side.

PRIME MINISTER STAUNING, who has been incapacitated by an accident which crippled him temporarily, was sufficiently recovered to attend the opening of the autumn session of the Rigsdag. The So-

cial-Democratic leader received a hearty greeting both from his own party members and from those of the opposition. In his speech he dwelt on the uncertainty of the economic situation, and expressed his regret that the League of Nations had been able to do so little toward the return of peace in Europe and the Far East. The one bright spot, he said, was the friendly relations of the Scandinavian neighbors with one another and with the outside world. Unemployment was still a problem, but the Government was bent on doing everything possible to provide work for those who were anxious to be taken off the relief roll.

DENMARK WILL TAKE PART in the World's Fair at New York in 1939. Director August Holm has assumed the task of heading the committee for expositions in foreign countries of which the late Benny Dessau was the active leader. A very favorable place for the Danish building has been secured close to the American government building. In Copenhagen there is considerable interest in the coming World's Fair, and it is expected that there will be a full representation of leading industrial, agrarian, and cultural enterprises. The government has appropriated 400,000 kroner for the purpose, and the Mönsted Fund has given 100,000 kroner. The committee hopes to add to this by private contributions.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences will meet in Copenhagen in the first week of August. The Congress was founded in Basle in 1933 and its first session was held in London in 1934. Almost a thousand representatives from a large number of countries were present. At this London meeting it was decided that the next session should be in Copenhagen in 1938.

Besides being the seat of the University, Copenhagen also possesses an ethnographical museum which is the oldest in the

world, founded in 1846, and which together with the Danish historical and pre-historical collections, the Danish peasant collections, the collections of Classical Antiquity, and of coins and medals, constitutes the National Museum. After having been closed for extensive enlargement, the entire Museum will be opened to the public immediately before the session of the Congress, so that upon this occasion it will for the first time be presented in its new setting to an international scientific group. The Congress will deal with all researches having to do with races, with peoples and their mode of life, everything, that is to say, concerning the scientific study of man.



THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS which were held all over Norway in the middle of October brought great gains to the Labor Party. In the 747 municipalities of the country the Labor Party won approximately five thousand seats, an increase of about five hundred over the last election. The conservative Right Party advanced some hundred mandates, whereas the greatest losses were suffered by the non-political groups. Speaking of non-political organizations, it is interesting to note that 47 parties were registered for the election. Less than a dozen of these can be called political. In Stavanger one group bid for the favor of the voters under the classification the "Happy Unpolitical Party" and won two seats in the city council. The Communists were set back from their former total of 164 to a new low of 128 seats, and it seems that the Fascist-tinted National Union is headed for oblivion, having been reduced from 58 to 8 representatives. Political observers declare that the vast gains made by the Labor Party indicate a lively trend

toward the left. Many writers, in commenting on the results of the elections, forecast a landslide for the Labor Party in the national elections two years hence.

THE NATIONAL BUDGET report was released almost simultaneously with the municipal elections. According to the statement from the Cabinet, the national accounts for 1936-37 show a net surplus of more than 46 million kroner. Income figures are at 548.9 million kroner or a little better than 54 millions more than the budget estimate. Expenditures amounted to 491.7 million kroner, an increase of 8.8 million kroner. Of the income a sum of 68.9 million kroner accrued from the general improvement of trade and industry since last year. Norway's advance has been rather remarkable. According to statistics of Norway's industrial production, the index number for August at 139 shows a rise of 13.9 per cent as compared with August 1936. The index figure of the exporting industries is 123 against 104 in August last year, and that of the home industrial section 149 against 133. Hard on the heels of this excellent report comes another showing that the national internal tax revenue for the first quarter of the new budget year has brought about fifteen million kroner more to the national coffers than during the same period last year.

TO PUT NORWAY ON THE MAP, the Government will ask the Storting to appropriate 500,000 kroner towards Norway's official participation in the World's Fair in New York in 1939. A contract has already been signed with Mr. Grover Whalen, president of the World's Fair. The Norwegian exhibit will cover an area of 3,000 square meters. The various export industries have been invited to purchase space and a committee headed by Mr. Lorentz Vogt has been appointed by



the Government to work out a plan for the exposition. Great emphasis will be placed on the social and cultural trends of modern Norway. In the press release from the Foreign Department's Press Bureau hope is expressed that Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Märtha will accept an invitation to the Fair. Among the tentative features of the exhibit is a Hall of Fame, suggested by Norway's Minister to the United States, Mr. Wilhelm Morgenstierne. In this hall busts of some of Norway's greatest men and women will be placed.

THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY covering the regulation of the whaling industry has been ratified by the Norwegian Government. England, Germany, South Africa, Ireland, and New Zealand are the other participants. According to the new agreement, the season for whale hunting will be limited to three months. While most of the whaling is carried on in the Antarctic, no fewer than four Norwegian companies have confined their operations to the coast of Norway. During the last season 230 whales were caught off the coast, one of them weighing more than 70 tons.

A HUMANISTIC ACADEMY under the name of the Nansen School will be opened at Lillehammer early next year. This academy has been created by the tireless efforts of two young idealists, Dr. Anders Wyller and Dr. Kristian Schjelderup. The Nansen School will be open for anybody who desires to increase his social, cultural, and ethical knowledge. The importance of the individual will be stressed as against the standardization of personality under the many mass movements of the day. There will be no tuition fee, and the leaders hope to collect enough funds from friends of the school to build dormitories where poor students may live without charge.

## SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICA

### Foreign Minister Koht Here

Evidently the Norwegians are not afraid of brains in conducting their affairs at home and abroad. When in March 1935 a Labor Government was formed under Prime Minister Johan Nygaardsvold, the portfolio of foreign affairs was entrusted to Halvdan Koht, professor of history in the University, first president of the "Comité international des sciences historiques," and author of many historical and biographical works. Since then, in a world more and more distraught with wars and rumours of wars, Norway has looked with increasing confidence to her scholarly foreign minister. At once a patriot and an internationalist, with a wide knowledge of affairs based on historical studies, he fills an important place in the conferences of the Northern nations who act together at Geneva.

Foreign Minister Koht arrived in this country in the latter part of October in order to confer with the President and Secretary of State Hull. After his visit to Washington he delivered a limited number of lectures.

An article on Halvdan Koht, by Hans Amundsen, appeared in the REVIEW for December 1935. Two of his books, *The Life of Ibsen* and *The Old Norse Sagas*, have been published by the Foundation, and he has also been a contributor to the REVIEW.

### Leif Ericson Day

The first official Leif Ericson celebration since the State of Illinois made October 9 a fixed memorial day, was held in Chicago under the auspices of the Norwegian National League. The chief speaker was Mayor Edward J. Kelly, who reminded his hearers that the city of Chicago had named its finest boulevard Leif Ericson Drive.

In Milwaukee the day had particular

interest because it was the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Leif Ericson statue donated by Mrs. Joseph T. Gilbert. In the audience were two persons, Mr. Christ Eriksen and Mr. John C. Sundin, who had been present fifty years ago. Most fittingly, one of the speakers was Mr. Iver Kalnes from Madison, the home town of the late R. B. Anderson who was Leif's first prophet in America.

In the Twin Cities, celebrations were held both in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and in both places Consul E. H. Hobe spoke, urging that a monument to Leif be erected in that center of Norsedom.

In South Dakota the Legislature in 1933 made October 9 official Leif Ericson Day. The commemoration was arranged this year by the Leif Ericson Memorial Association of South Dakota, an organization which includes many teachers and scholars and has for its object, not merely the promotion of knowledge about Leif Ericson, but of Scandinavian study generally.

In the State of Washington Governor Clarence D. Martin proclaimed October 9, 1937, as Leif Ericson Day and invited the citizens "to give thought and tribute to the memory of that heroic Norseman." The day was commemorated in Seattle and Tacoma, as also in Portland, Oregon, and in San Francisco. In the latter city the proclamation in honor of "our early Nordic civilization" was signed by the mayor of San Francisco, whose name, by the way, is Angelo Rossi.

In many other cities the day was remembered with festivities, radio talks, and exercises in the schools. Danes and Swedes joined with Leif's nearest kinsmen, the Norwegians and Icelanders, and the object everywhere was to make it, not a local or clannish, but a really American celebration. Attention is called to the fact that the resolution of Congress which in 1935 proclaimed a Leif Ericson Day was only for that one year, and those interested are urged to work for making it permanent.

#### A Viking Ship for the President

President Roosevelt's interest in ship models is well known, and Scandinavians in the State of Washington have taken care that his collection should no longer lack a copy of the ship from which white men first sighted America. During his recent visit to Seattle, a viking ship was handed to the President by a delegation headed by the two Congressmen, Warren G. Magnuson and Monrad Wallgren. The model, which is said to be a marvel of workmanship and as authentic as careful study could make it, was made by an invalid sailor, Henning Carlson, a native of Bohuslen, Sweden.

#### A Distinguished Historian

Professor Laurence Marcellus Larson is vice-president of the American Historical Association and, by the rules of the organization, will become president of that distinguished association at its meeting in Philadelphia during the Christmas vacation. He was born in Norway but came to this country as a small child with his parents. His work has been especially in the field of English history, and he has translated from the Old Norse among other things *The King's Mirror* published by the American Scandinavian Foundation. For some years past he has been head of the history department at the University of Illinois.

Professor Larson is an Advisor of the Foundation's Committee on Publications and has been an occasional contributor to the REVIEW. He is also active in the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

#### The War Against Cancer

Professor Ludvig Hektoen, head of the department of pathology in Chicago University, has been appointed one of the directors of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Hektoen was born in Wisconsin of Norwegian parents and is an alumnus of Luther College in Decorah. He has won a reputation as one of the most distinguished pathologists in the country, and

though now well past three score and ten, he is active and vigorous enough to attack the problem that has baffled human research for thousands of years, namely the causes of cancer.

#### A Hero of Pioneer Days

A hundred years ago last spring a band of eighty-three Norwegian emigrants left Bergen for the New World. Their leader was a young university man, Ole Rynning, the son of a minister in Snaasa, Trøndelag, who in those days of sharp class distinctions had cast in his lot with the common people.

The immigrants settled at Beaver Creek, Illinois, a choice of location that proved disastrous, for the land which had looked so pleasant in summer was flooded in the autumn, and all but three or four succumbed to the settlers' worst enemy, malaria.

Among those that died, was the leader, but in spite of the tragedy that had overtaken the settlement, he had not lost faith in America. He used his last remnant of strength to write a book of advice and information for prospective settlers. A friend carried the manuscript home to Norway. It was printed there and afterwards in Sweden, and is credited with having done more than any other single agency to enlist emigrants.

In view of the approaching centenary of the expedition, a Rynning Memorial Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. P. O. Bugge, of Bisbee, North Dakota. Funds were raised for a monument which was unveiled at Snaasa on the Fourth of July in the presence of a large crowd of visitors.

#### To Exhibit in Denver

The noted Danish-American portrait and landscape painter, Mr. J. W. de Rehl-ing-Quistgaard, has recently received a flattering invitation from the Denver Art Museum to give a representative exhibition of his work there during the month of January. An entire gallery has been

placed at his disposal, and much interest is evinced in this coming exhibition, since it is the first time that Mr. Quistgaard's work is shown in the West. A recent portrait by the artist, which is certain to arouse especial comment in Denver, is that of the Right Reverend Irving Peake Johnson, Bishop of Colorado. He posed for Mr. Quistgaard during his recent sojourn in New York last summer while he was a guest preacher at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

#### Arts and Handicrafts

The American Institute of Swedish Art, which owns its own splendid house at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, has for some years past regularly arranged exhibitions of arts and handicrafts. The Institute itself possesses considerable collections, and has besides organized a network of helpers throughout the State.

This year the exhibition, held during the first week of October, was the largest and most comprehensive to date. It was surprising to see what a large number of articles such as textiles, metals, and wood carvings had been brought originally from Sweden and carefully treasured since pioneer days. In addition, there were shown many modern copies of the old handicrafts, especially of course the weavings. The Institute plans to make a special effort next year in honor of the Tercentenary.

#### Madame Michaelis Lecturing

The famous Danish writer Karin Michaelis began an American lecture tour November 9 when she spoke in Town Hall, New York, under the auspices of the League for Political Education. Her subject was "Love, Marriage, and Divorce." Madame Michaelis is a prolific writer with about fifty books to her credit. She first became world famous with *The Dangerous Age* which appeared in 1910 and has been translated into twenty languages. Since then she has lectured in most of the countries of Europe.

# THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

*For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples,  
by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information*

ESTABLISHED BY NIELS POULSON, IN 1911

**Trustees:** Henry Goddard Leach, President; Charles S. Haight, William Hovgaard, G. Hilmer Lundbeck, Vice-Presidents; Hans Christian Sonne, Treasurer; John G. Bergquist, E. A. Cappelen-Smith, James Creese, Lincoln Ellsworth, John A. Gade, Hamilton Holt, Edwin O. Holter, George N. Jeppson, Sonnin Krebs, William Witherle Lawrence, John M. Morehead, Charles S. Peterson, John Dyneley Prince, Charles J. Rhoads, Frederic Schaefer, George Vincent, Owen D. Young.

**Cooperating Bodies:** Sweden—Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen, Grevturegatan 16, Stockholm, J. S. Edström, President; A. R. Nordvall, Kommercerådet Enström, and Professor The. Svedberg, Vice-Presidents; Eva Fröberg, Secretary; Denmark—Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, Ernst Michaelsen, President; Viggo Carstensen, Secretary, Frederiksholms Kanal 20, Copenhagen K; Norway—Norge-Amerika Fondet, Rådhusgaten 23 B, Oslo; Arne Kildal, Secretary.

**Associates:** All who are in sympathy with the aims of the Foundation are invited to become Associates. **Regular Associates**, paying \$3.00 annually, receive the REVIEW. **Sustaining Associates**, paying \$10.00 annually, receive the REVIEW and CLASSICS. **Life Associates**, paying \$200.00 once for all, receive all publications.

## Trustees Meeting

The regular autumn meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation was held at 116 East 64th Street on Saturday, November 6.

At a luncheon preceding the meeting the following guests were present: Consul General Georg Bech, Consul General Martin Kastengren, and Mr. Harrison Clark, Jr., Fellow of the Foundation to Sweden in 1936.

The letter of resignation of Mr. Henry Goddard Leach as President of the Foundation was presented at the meeting and the following resolution was passed by a unanimous vote of the Board:

"RESOLVED by the Trustees of the American - Scandinavian Foundation, meeting on November sixth, 1937,

That they extend to the President of the Foundation, Henry Goddard Leach, their sincere congratulations on the success that has always attended his work in the Foundation;

That they venture to speak for all who consider it important that well-founded friendship exist between the American and Scandinavian peoples and to thank Mr. Leach for the direction, intelligent and effective, which he has given daily

to the affairs of the Foundation during the past twenty-five years;

That though they now accept with reluctance his resignation from the Presidency of the Foundation, they nonetheless look to him for guidance in the formulation of their policies and projects, and as a sign of their affection and regard they propose to elect him Honorary Chairman of the Board of the Foundation."

## Professor The Svedberg Here

Dr. The Svedberg, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Uppsala and winner of the Nobel Prize in 1926, arrived in New York on October 6 as the first of the Swedish lecturers invited to this country in connection with the New Sweden Tercentenary.

Dr. Svedberg's first engagement was at the University of Delaware, where he delivered a lecture at the ceremonies dedicating the new chemistry laboratory, and where an honorary degree was conferred upon him. Following his visit to Delaware, he delivered fourteen lectures at other universities and before scientific bodies in the eastern part of the country.

Mr. Henry Goddard Leach, chairman of the lecture committee of the Swedish





Wide World Photos  
*Professor The Svedberg*

American Tercentenary Association, made the arrangements for Dr. Svedberg's trip.

#### **Professor Myrdal Coming**

The American Scandinavian Foundation announces that Professor Gunnar Myrdal, professor of political economy at Stockholm University, has accepted the invitation of Harvard University to deliver a series of lectures under the Godkin Foundation on economic and political problems of interest to the general public.

Professor Myrdal was expert advisor to the Department of Finance in Sweden during the economic crisis. He is a member of the Riksdag and of several royal commissions including the Population Commission, the Housing Commission, and the Budget Commission. He will come to America in May 1938, and is prepared to lecture on managed currency

and social and economic subjects at other universities in addition to Harvard. Invitations should be addressed to the American Scandinavian Foundation.

It is probable that Professor Myrdal will be accompanied by Mrs. Myrdal, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Women's Work. She is a competent lecturer on child psychology, public health, nursing, and social work. The American Scandinavian Foundation hopes that sufficient invitations will come to her from American institutions to justify adding Mrs. Myrdal also to the list of officially accepted Swedish Tercentenary Lecturers.

#### **The Exhibition of Swedish Art**

The exhibition of Swedish Art lent by the government of Sweden in connection with the New Sweden Tercentenary opened at Rockefeller Center, New York, on September 23 under the joint auspices of the Swedish American Tercentenary Association, the American Scandinavian Foundation, and a group of American Museums. The exhibition was officially opened by His Excellency Minister Boström and brief speeches were made by Dr. Sixten Strömbom, curator of the National Museum in Stockholm and Commissioner for the exhibition, Mr. Francis H. Taylor, director of the Worcester Art Museum, and Mr. George N. Jeppson, chairman of the Art Committee of the Tercentenary Association.

During the two weeks it was seen here the exhibition was visited by 26,000 people. From New York it went on to the Worcester Art Museum, and then to Minneapolis, Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, Buffalo, Toledo, Washington, D.C., Wilmington, and Philadelphia, where it will be shown in connection with the Tercentenary Celebration next summer.

#### **Dr. Strömbom at the Morgan Library**

Dr. Sixten Strömbom, curator of the National Museum in Stockholm, delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Art of the

Viking Age" at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York on October 4. The lecture was arranged by the Foundation.

#### Foreign Minister Koht Lectures

During the brief stay of Dr. Halvdan Koht, Foreign Minister of Norway, the Foundation arranged for him to lecture before the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on October 29, at Harvard University on November 2, and at Columbia University on November 3.

#### Fellows of the Foundation

Mr. Peter Hammarberg, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on October 23 to enter the freshman class at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Mr. Hammarberg, a graduate of Sigtuna School, was awarded a scholarship by the college.

Mr. Mogens Nielsen, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in New York on October 10, and will tour the country, studying the paint and varnish industry.

Mr. Borge Hansen-Møller, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in this country on September 14, and has enrolled in the School of Business of Columbia University.

Mr. Andreas Meinert Thomsen, Fellow from Denmark, sailed for home on August 22, after a prolonged study of American business methods.

Dr. Gunnar Heckscher, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on September 28. Dr. Heckscher, who is Professor of History at the University of Uppsala, will visit a number of leading universities while in this country.

Mr. Thomas Poulsen, Fellow from Denmark, who has been studying chemical engineering in the United States, sailed from New York on September 24.

Miss Gerd Wang, Fellow from Norway, arrived in New York on September 21, and has enrolled in the School of Library Service of Columbia University.

Mr. Sune Överby, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on September 18,

and has enrolled in the Graduate School of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. E. H. Schulein, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in New York on September 6, and will study engineering while in this country.

Miss Mimi Pedersen, Fellow from Norway, arrived in New York on September 21. Miss Pedersen has enrolled in the freshman class of Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on a scholarship granted by the college.

Mr. Uno Löwgren, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on September 18, and will study chemical engineering while in this country.

Mr. Fritz Ingerslev, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in New York on September 12, and has taken up studies in radio engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Sören J. W. Graae, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in New York on September 12, and will study American business methods.

Mr. Thorkild Aistrup, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in New York on September 12, and will study American business methods while in this country.

Miss Greta Hudin, Fellow from Sweden, who attended the summer school of Bryn Mawr College, sailed on September 4.

Miss Svea Starrin, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on August 25, and is studying employment problems in New York and other cities.

Mr. Carl Gösta Lagerman, Fellow from Sweden, arrived in New York on July 22, and is studying accounting in New York City.

Mr. Erik Andersson, Fellow from Sweden, who had been studying accounting in New York, sailed on August 11.

Mr. Johannes Pilgaard Sørensen, Fellow from Denmark, arrived in this country in the summer, and is studying American department store administration.

Miss Margot Dahlin, Fellow from Sweden, who attended the summer school of the University of Wisconsin, sailed on September 4.

Mr. Nils Eie, Fellow from Norway, arrived in New York on October 24. Mr. Eie, who has completed three years' medical study in Norway, has enrolled in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

#### Bureau of University Travel

The Foundation joined with the Bureau of University Travel of Newton, Massachusetts, in offering two scholarships to members of the seminar which visited the Scandinavian countries last summer on a study tour. The recipients of the scholarships were: Miss Helen Bloomquist of Adelphi College, Garden City, New York, and Mr. John W. Fredrickson of Northwestern University.

#### Borgmester Christensen's Trip

Borgmester Viggo Christensen, Commissioner of Public Welfare of Copenhagen, and Mrs. Christensen sailed from Los Angeles on October 25, after a lecture tour of a month, arranged by the

Foundation. His lectures on the Pacific Coast were secured through the cooperation of Mr. C. Redsted Pedersen, editor of *Bien* in San Francisco.

A last-minute change in his plans enabled Borgmester Christensen to visit Blair, Nebraska, where he delivered a lecture at Dana College upon the invitation of acting President C. X. Hansen.

#### The Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Chapter of the Foundation gave a dinner in honor of Borgmester Viggo Christensen of Copenhagen at the Union League Club on October 5. The Honorable Ira Nelson Morris, President of the Chapter, presided and about one hundred guests were present.

#### We Apologize!

The Danish correspondent of the *Review*, in describing the Fourth of July festivities at Rebild Park in Denmark, failed to get correctly the name of the man who unveiled the bust of Max Henius raised by Danish-Americans. The bust was unveiled by Dr. Henius's old friend, Mr. Halvor Jacobsen of New York.

## THE REVIEW AND ITS CONTRIBUTORS

William Witherle Lawrence, a trustee of the Foundation, is author of *Beowulf and Epic Tradition* and other books. . . . Oscar J. Falnes is professor of history at New York University and a former Fellow of the Foundation. . . . Per Sivle, who died in 1904, was one of Norway's peasant authors, with a production slight in volume, but of exquisite quality. . . . Th. Thomsen is curator of

the Ethnographic Museum which he describes. . . . Fridtjof Knutsen is a Norwegian newspaper man. . . . Torsten Fogelquist is one of the most distinguished of Sweden's contemporary critics, a member of the Swedish Academy. . . . Charles Wharton Stork, best known for his translations, appears in this number as an original poet. . . . Else Merrild is a newspaper woman of Copenhagen.

# Swedish Books for American Libraries

## 1936

Compiled by Greta Linder, library advisor, on the basis of the annotated lists published by the Swedish Government Library Commission.  
American prices have been furnished by Albert Bonnier, New York.

### FICTION

**Bang, Monica** (pseud. for Gabrielle Ringertz). *Guds barnbarn*. Medén. 230 pages. Paper bound, \$1.45

A fine description of life at the close of the nineteenth century in a Stockholm family in which the stern evangelical religion is the cause of strife between the mother and the lively young daughter.

**Berg, Curt**. *Blå dragonerna*. Bonnier. 374 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

A good entertaining story from a little Norrland garrison town in the Nineties with glimpses of the magnificent Norrland scenery.

**Berg, Eva**. *Ny kvinna*. Wahlström & Widstrand. 459 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

An intelligent and sensible portrayal of the ill-assorted marriage of an inherently naïve and indolent aristocratic girl with an energetic doctor in a primitive district. They ultimately find a solution to their marital problem.

**Bergstrand-Poulsen, Elisabeth**. *Väven*. Norstedt. 192 pages. Paper bound, \$2.05

The author is a native of the old Varend district in southern Småland, and all her work is a glorification in word and picture of this strange old peasant culture.

**Björkman, Anna**. *Räddad idyll*. Bonnier. 327 pages. Paper bound, \$1.75

A simple but intimate and authentic picture of a small community on the plains of Skåne.

**Boye, Karin**. *För lite*. Bonnier. 244 pages. Paper bound, \$1.65

The story of a marriage and of a poet's commonplace tragedy written with clarity and integrity.

**Hammenhög, Waldemar**. *Esthers och Alberts äktenskap*. Natur och Kultur. 260 pages. Paper bound, \$1.80

A sequel to Hammenhög's first book, and the best he has written hitherto, *Esther och Albert*, and, like it, a good proof of the author's ability to give a detailed and concrete picture of lower middle class life in Stockholm.

**Hedberg, Olle**. *Jag är en prins av blodet*. Norstedt. 409 pages. Paper bound, \$2.25

With a slightly acid knowledge of human nature and a restrained style, the author describes the relationship between two brothers,

one of whom is forced from childhood to make constant sacrifices for the other and finally dies for him.

**Hertzman-Ericson, Gurli**. *Gåvan*. Norstedt. 153 pages. Paper bound, \$1.05.

A collection of short stories bearing the stamp of this author's realistic style, her warm interest in people, and her wise outlook upon life.

**Ingel, Paul Michael** (pseud. for Ragnar Holmström). *Byn vid havet*. Schildt. 267 pages. Paper bound, \$1.95

A picture of life on the east coast of Sweden, a trifle romantic here and there perhaps, but with a certain strength in the depiction of primitive emotional life.

**Jändel, Ragnar**. *Barndomstid*. Tiden. 267 pages. Paper bound, \$1.60

A picture of the crofter world of Blekinge in southern Sweden, where the author grew up. His treatment of child psychology bears witness both to the author's honest desire for truth and to his feeling for poetical nuances.

**Johnson, Eyvind**. *Se dig inte om!* Bonnier. 269 pages. Paper bound, \$1.75

A continuation of *Nu var det 1914!* and *Här har du ditt liv!* (see the AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW for September 1936). The poor Norrbotten boy has now come to wartime Stockholm, where he spends his adolescent years. The book is written with uncompromising realism but also with psychological insight and artistic style.

**Lilja, Gertrud**. *Kvinnorna i släkten*. Bonnier. 390 pages. Paper bound, \$2.25

The setting for this interesting novel is a Småland peasant home in the latter part of the nineteenth century in which the father practises an austere and rigid Christianity.

**Martinson, Harry**. *Vägen ut*. Bonnier. 424 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

A continuation of the account of the author's childhood given in *Nässlorna blomma*. The orphan boy, Martin, who pursues here his harsh, itinerant existence, passing through the unrest and conflicts of adolescence, is depicted with intuitive strength by this remarkable author, whose style at once rankly naturalistic and highly imaginative has already had an influence on Swedish literature.



**Stiernstedt, Marika.** *Spegling i en skärva.* Bonnier. 384 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

The author, who is herself something of a Slav and has childhood memories from the old Russia, here portrays a Russian government official's family of the cultural-liberal type from 1914 to 1934.

**Widén, Albin.** *Hem vill jag åter rida.* Wahlström & Widstrand. 344 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

A prize novel from a Swedish rural district in the Period of Greatness written in an expressive style with expert historical knowledge and psychological insight.

### POETRY

**Nyström, Bengt E.** *Under Vår Herres himmel.* Diakonistytelsen. 82 pages. Paper bound, 90 cents

The keynote of this collection of poems is a positive religious sense which casts a glow over the troubles and duties of the day.

### GENERAL

**Ahlberg, Alf.** *Idealen och deras skuggbilder.* Seelig. 212 pages. Paper bound, \$1.05

The author, who is rector of the Brunnsvik Folk High School, examines critically as a Christian humanist certain personalities and currents of our time.

**Bengtsson, Frans G.** *Karl XII's levnad. Från Altranstätt till Fredrikshald.* Norstedt. 433 pages. Paper bound, \$2.85

The second half of Bengtsson's monumental life of Charles XII.

**Böök, Fredrik.** *Det rika och fattiga Sverige; en sommarens 1936.* Bonnier. 255 pages. Paper bound, \$2.55

In his fresh and vivid style the author describes an automobile trip through Sweden, expressing a strong feeling of fellowship with the working people.

**Garberg, Rikard W.** *I rigg och skans; minnen från en djupvattenseglares hundår.* Wahlström & Widstrand. 181 pages. Paper bound, \$1.50

The author tells a lively tale of his life as a seaman on Swedish sailing ships in the Seventies.

**Harrie, Ivar.** *Tjugotalet in memoriam.* Geber. 235 pages. Paper bound, \$2.05

An intelligent and spirited account of the ideas current from 1914 to 1933 viewed from the Swedish standpoint against the background of general cultural development.

**Hedin, Sven.** *Sidenvägen. En bilfärd genom Centralasien.* Bonnier. 403 pages. Paper bound, \$3.00

Hedin has prepared for the Chinese Government a plan to revive for commercial purposes the old imperial highway along which the caravans used to bring silk to the west two thousand years ago.

**Hörner, Nils.** *Resa till Lop.* Norstedt. 328 pages. Paper bound, \$4.50

As geologist on Hedin's great Asiatic expedition, the author suffered unheard-of hardships. His particular task was to clear up the desert problems, especially the much disputed shifting of Lake Lop-nar.

**Linder, Sten.** *Ibsen, Strindberg och andra; litteraturhistoriska essäer.* Bonnier. 301 pages. Paper bound, \$2.25

Studies by an authority on Scandinavian literature of the Eighties, including essays on Ibsen and Strindberg, Harriet Bosse's picture of Strindberg, Jonas Lie, Synnöve Solbakken, and Ernst Ahlgren and Georg Brandes.

**Lindgren, John.** *Från Per Götrek till Per Albin.* Bonnier. 278 pages. Paper bound, \$1.75

An objective, illuminating, and readable account of the Swedish Labor movement. Per Götrek was an eccentric social reformer of the 1830s; Per Albin Hansson is the present Prime Minister of Sweden.

**Montell, Gösta.** *Merikanskt; Indianliv i forntid och nutid.* Medén. 220 pages. Paper bound, \$2.25

The author, who accompanied Hedin as ethnographer, has made a research trip to Mexico and describes both the old Indian culture and the problems of modern Mexico.

**Nilsson, Martin P.** *Forntidens historia.* Geber. 235 pages. Paper bound, \$1.50

A brief account of the earliest history of the Orient, Greece, and Rome in the light of modern scientific investigation.

**Nystedt, Olle.** *Från studentkorståget till Sigtunastiftelsen.* Diakonistytelsen. 479 pages. Paper bound, \$2.85

A history of the youth movement in the Swedish church which has its roots in the theology of Nathan Söderblom and Einar Billing. This movement, which came to a head among the students of Uppsala about 1909, has played an important rôle in Sweden in recent years.

**Odhe, Thorsten.** *Skogen blir kläder.* Kooperativa förbundet. 160 pages. Paper bound, 45 cents

An interesting account of the rapidly growing artificial silk industry in Sweden.

**Sandler, Rickard.** *Svenska utrikesärenden.* Tiden. 171 pages. Paper bound, 70 cents

These speeches by the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with those published in *Ett utrikespolitisk program* in 1935, may be regarded as representative of the Swedish attitude towards the questions discussed.



## GENERAL

**Iceland, A Land of Contrasts.** By Hjalmar Lindroth. Translated from the Swedish by Adolph B. Benson. Illustrated. Princeton University Press, for the American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1937. Price \$3.50.

When published in the original Swedish in 1930, Professor Lindroth's notable work was favorably reviewed in Icelandic publications; and very deservedly so, for it is a scholarly, sympathetic, and on the whole a penetrating study of the people and the culture of Iceland. The English translation may, therefore, safely be recommended as an authentic guide, as it follows the original closely, and has besides, especially in matters statistical, been brought up to date.

Professor Lindroth knows whereof he speaks when writing on Iceland and the Icelanders, for he has not only traveled extensively in Iceland, but has also, which is of fundamental importance in this connection, mastered the Icelandic language. Hence he writes as one who has entered deeply into the life of the people and knows and understands intimately the conditions under which they live and the problems they face.

The very title of his book, *Iceland, A Land of Contrasts*, clearly indicates his unusual approach to the subject. Justly, he points out in his introduction that foreign travelers in Iceland have until recently been too much concerned with describing the scenery, unique and grand as it is, but have neglected interpreting the people and Icelandic civilization. Equally rightly, he insists that it is the culture of Iceland, in modern times no less than in days of old, that should concern us: "Especially in modern times, we may say, because the old and the new—often indeed the very ancient and the ultra-modern—are at present engaged in a strange and violent conflict. It is this conflict, this revolution, now slow and hidden, now rapid and palpable, in the cultural life of Iceland which I shall try to give a survey of here. This point of view is in my opinion so fruitful that it will dominate the whole work." The approach is both timely and revealing. Present-day Iceland, "The Modern Land of the Sagas," which is in the midst of an all-embracing transition, in ways of living no less than in the realm of the spirit, emerges vividly from the pages of this book.

After a highly enlightening chapter on the Icelandic people, Professor Lindroth writes a detailed account of the "Material Civiliza-

tion":—dress; buildings and farms; life on an Icelandic farm; communication and transportation; and the fishing industry. The second main part of the book deals in equal detail with the "Intellectual Life":—general background; hygiene and care of the sick, alcohol and temperance; sports, games, and dances; culture, educational institutions, and science; the fine arts; the language; modern Iceland and the monuments of antiquity; and literature.

Here is brought together much salient and varied information, which bespeaks both the wide knowledge of the author and his keen observation. In the chapter on "The Fine Arts" I miss, however, a reference to that venerable form of Icelandic art—wood-carving, whose best-known representative today is the gifted and versatile Ríkardur Jónsson (See the article about him in *THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW*, June, 1927). The significant chapter on the Icelandic language reveals the author as the excellent philologist that he is. The chapter on Icelandic literature is a noteworthy survey as far as it goes, but somewhat limited by Professor Lindroth's selection of authors. As a result two of Iceland's most noted present-day writers, Gunnar Gunnarsson and Guðmundur Kamban, receive but a passing mention, while others, some of whom are certainly less important, are discussed in considerable detail. Likewise, it is not correct to say that only two women writers, Ólína and Herdís Andriksdóttir, "have received any general attention." Certainly the poetess "Hulda" (Unnur Benediktsdóttir Bjarklind), the most productive and many-sided of Icelandic women writers now living, deserves to be included.

Professor Adolph B. Benson, the translator, has done his work well; his translation is both accurate and readable. He has also added a number of helpful notes. The bibliography is adequate, and there is a good index. Numerous fine illustrations add conspicuously to the value of this authoritative and interesting volume, a worthy addition to the many important works on Northern culture published by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

RICHARD BECK

**The Changing West and Other Essays.** By Laurence M. Larson. *The Norwegian-American Historical Association*. Northfield. 1937. Price \$2.50.

The reader who is familiar only with Professor Larson's contributions to English and Old Norse history may find this new volume something of a surprise. For these essays deal not with European but with American history, more specifically with that "West" in which live and labor so many Americans of Scandinavian descent. This region, we are informed in the opening essay, which, by the way serves—a bit inadequately—as the title for the collection as a whole, is pass-

ing through a fundamental change. The author accepts throughout the Turner thesis, which stresses the importance of the frontier in American life, and his specific endeavor here is to fit the Norwegian immigrant element into the Turner picture of the Upper Mississippi Valley, or, what has been happily called, the Nearer Northwest.

The immigrant from Norway had many adjustments to make in this new society. The public or "Yankee" school, for instance, was the source of much controversy in which, as the essay on that subject makes clear, no mean part was played by the late Rasmus B. Anderson. The essay on the frontier lay preacher is a fresh and first hand account of this itinerant figure who, if he had possessed a mount, would have been the Lutheran counterpart of the Methodist circuit rider; the second portion of the essay goes into the intricacies of Norwegian-American religious factionalism, and will interest particularly the historian of religion. The essay on the political riot in a frontier Iowa county in 1876 is a reminder that the advent of the Norwegian-American in politics was not accomplished without some opposition.

The immigrant had not been here many decades before he began to make some contribution to America's cultural life, as is evident in the chapter on "The Norwegian Element in the Field of American Scholarship," and in the biographical essays on Grundeysen and Boyesen, two pioneers in Norwegian-American fiction. The essay on Boyesen, in this writer's opinion, is distinctly the most substantial one in the collection. A part of Boyesen's experience was certainly typical; many another immigrant like him on his arrival here set about with diligence to learn the new language and "abandon all Scandinavian associations," expecting meanwhile to remain no less a Norwegian, only to find years later when he visited the "old country" that "he was no longer a Norwegian."

OSCAR J. FALNES

**Monetary Policy and Crises: a Study of Swedish Experience.** By Brinley Thomas. London; George Routledge. 1935. Price 7/6.

This book deals with only one of the many social and economic problems in Sweden which have so interested Americans in the past five years. In contrast with much of the other literature which has appeared dealing with these problems, this work is marked by its objectivity and the well-balanced scientific analysis of the policies of the Swedish government in monetary matters. Dr. Brinley Thomas is a young instructor at the London School of Economics who undertook the rather difficult task of learning the Swedish language, in order to prepare for English-speaking readers a monograph on Sweden's monetary experiences since 1914, and the

theoretical and practical work of the economists in shaping her policies.

As the title indicates, economic crises form the basis of the study. The two chief economic dislocations which Sweden has passed through have been those of the war and immediate post-war years, and the depression years 1930-34. Dr. Thomas' description of the first years of crisis, the war years, is rather weak, but he is on much surer ground when he writes of Sweden's experiences in the last crisis and her quick recovery. In September 1931 Sweden went off gold, and the Board of the Riksbank announced that their future policy would be "the maintenance of the internal purchasing power of the krona." It was rather a vague standard and did not prevent deflation from continuing in Sweden during most of 1932. Not until 1933 did Sweden begin to recover, and then the stimulus was external . . . an increased demand for her timber products from Britain's expanding housing industry, and for her iron products from Germany's armament industry. In September 1932 the Social Democrats had come to power and were determined to have a large public works program to stimulate the capital goods industry and reemployment. The chief theoretical basis for the program was an official report of Professor Myrdal's entitled: *Finanspolitikens ekonomiska verkningar* of which Dr. Thomas gives an excellent summary. Professor Ohlin's report published about the same time *Penningpolitik, offentliga arbeten, subventioner och tullar som medel mot arbetslöshet* Dr. Thomas regrettably does not discuss. The public works program was slow in getting under way, and in the meantime recovery had already begun, further stimulated, however, by the new expansionist program.

There is also a chapter on Monetary Theory since Wicksell which is rather too technical for the ordinary reader, and too sketchy for the economist. The rest of the book is intelligently done, written with an easy style and without too much of the technical language of the economist. It should be read by everyone interested in Sweden's monetary theory in practice, especially during its most interesting phase, the period from 1931 to 1935.

HARRISON CLARK

## FICTION

**Katrina.** By Sally Salminen. Translated from the Swedish by Naomi Walford. Farrar & Rinehart. 1937. Price \$2.50.

Sigrid Undset writes about *Katrina* that no one should be deterred from reading it by the fact that it is a prize-winning novel. I might add that no one should be frightened away by the publicity attending the fact that the author wrote the book while she was a servant girl in New York. *Katrina* is a good wine that needs no bush. Wherever she learned it, Miss Salminen has thoroughly mastered the



Sally Salminen

art of writing, and she has wisely chosen the scenes of her childhood where she is on familiar ground. Indeed her heroine is said to have borrowed some traits from her mother, who as a widow in extreme poverty brought up a large brood of children.

The Åland she pictures is a country of patriarchal conditions at their worst. The poor people live in almost incredible wretchedness under the dominion of the wealthy captains who own the land as well as the ships and can force men, women, nay tiny children to toil for a miserable pay "in kind"—a little skim milk or a pair of old shoes for a day's work. The book is not a social document, however, but the story of one heroic woman.

Katrina is a vigorous and beautiful girl, the daughter of well-to-do parents in Finland, who follows the lure of the stranger and marries an attractive young sailor from Åland. When he brings her home, she finds that instead of the great house he had told her about, he has only a dirty hovel; she has to go out as a field laborer, and her husband is despised by everybody as the biggest liar and braggart in the parish.

She is proud enough to stick to her bad bargain, but it is not only pride that sustains her. She learns to love her husband, not only

because he needs her, but because she needs him. Underneath his weakness there is a real goodness and sweetness, and even a great honesty—for his tall tales are not so much conscious deceit as an effort of the imagination to get away from the sordid reality.

There is a scene in which Katrina allows their life to pass in review. She finds that Johan is suspicious of the attentions paid her by the rich and powerful Captain Nordkvist. Gently she soothes him, until the sharp pain melts in tears. She reminds him of the time when their first child was born and he made porridge for her; of how he found her when she was lost on the ice with their little girl; of the time when the child died and they lay awake together all night in their sorrow. "Ay, if we talked of all we can remember, it'd be a whole book, for we've done a lot of things that others know nothing about. Rich people—like the Nordkvist's, for instance—can't know anything about all this. What have Nordkvist and I in common? But you and I had our young days, and we've got our children, and poverty, and work."

There is a deep and simple wisdom in all this, and it is unfolded with a beautiful and quiet art which is characteristic of the book.

Naomi Walford has tried the difficult task of making these plain people speak as they would have done in English and has succeeded in being colloquial without being vulgar.

HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN

**The Faithful Wife.** By Sigrid Undset. Translated from the Norwegian by Arthur G. Chater. *Knopf*. 1937. Price \$2.50.

Sigrid Undset's latest book is a study of a modern woman in relation to marriage. The heroine, Nathalie, is a woman who can inspire and feel intense passionate love and who finds satisfaction for the deepest instincts of her nature in her relation to her husband. But she is also a human being endowed with energy, intelligence, and eagerness to do her share of the world's work.

In former days such a woman would have found her work cut out for her as head of a household with perhaps many servants and dependents and with innumerable large and small tasks to be supervised and directed. Her abilities would have been enlisted in the service of her affections. It was this fusion of all her faculties which gave the old-fashioned woman the singleness and repose, the mingled benignity and energy, which many of us remember in our mothers and grandmothers. One feels that Sigrid Undset is nostalgic for those days and believes some of their spirit can be recaptured even if the conditions are gone.

Unlike Ida Elisabeth in the author's novel of that name, Nathalie has no children. The care of the small flat with one part-time ser-



vant is not enough to occupy her, and she therefore continues in the responsible and well paid position she held before their marriage. Absorbed in each other, she and Sigurd do not even gather a circle of common friends. It is significant that they come from different milieus and have not succeeded in creating any new milieu together.

Nathalie's father was "the typical editor who had been to America, as in the books of Ibsen and Björnson." He and his wife worked for all the causes that used to be considered advanced in the Nineties, and this rather naive radicalism had caused a slightly flippant and cynical reaction in the children. Sigurd, on the other hand, is come of rural stock, and there is a substratum of conservatism in him. When he begins to feel attracted to a young girl of peasant origin, he fancies that he sees in her something of the virtues of his mother. He imagines her to be close to the elemental realities, the great simple truths of life, and he even begins to judge Nathalie by the standards of his old home. Nathalie's bitterest pang comes when the other woman is to have a child by Sigurd. She has not only lost the love of her husband, whom she still passionately loves, but she feels that Nature's self has rejected her and chosen this weak, silly girl.

Sigrid Undset never in her novels speaks in her own person. She uses sometimes one, sometimes the other, of her characters as spokesman for her theories. In this book, although the reader's sympathy is with the wife, it is often the husband who formulates the author's ideas. It is he who says that they have never built a home, their relation has only been "a legalized companionship." For that reason it seems fatally easy to break. Seems—but in the end Sigurd and Nathalie find that they belong together and take up their life again, though on a different basis.

The book treats of fundamental human relationships as they manifest themselves in modern life. It is superbly well built up, and seems to me by far the best novel of modern life that Sigrid Undset has written.

H. A. L.

**Thord Firetooth.** By Alice Alison Lide and Margaret Alison Johansen. Illustrated by Henry Pitz. *Lothrop, Lee and Shepard.* 1937. Price \$2.00

This is a spirited tale of adventure from the time of Olav Trygvason. Young Thord, a chieftain's son, is taken in an attack of the wild Jomsvikings upon his home in Sogn, Norway. In telling all that happened to him—and a great deal did happen, almost too much—the authors have an opportunity for a kaleidoscopic picture of the whole known world at a time when races were crossing one another and faiths were clashing. Thord is carried first to the fortified camp of the Jomsvikings, is sold into slavery, suffers blows

and indignities, sees fighting and hairbreadth escapes, and through being an oarsman on the Danube at last reaches Constantinople, where he is rescued by some of his countrymen in the Varangian guard. He returns to his own country, sets out again, is carried to Vinland, and finally to Greenland.

The story is perhaps a little too harrowing to appeal to the young readers who naturally would enjoy it most, but it is extremely well told and shows a thorough study of the background. Nor is it all physical adventure. There are spiritual elements of affection, loyal friendship, and passionate martyrdom. Faith in the White Christ touches Thord's heart and makes him the champion of the new religion.

H. A. L.

## BOOK NOTES

A handsome volume entitled *Norwegian Decorative Art Today*, edited by Halvor Vreim with the cooperation of the Decorative Art Society, has recently been published by Fabritius & Sønner, Oslo. The book contains 180 fine illustrations of textiles, silver, enamel, pewter, porcelain, pottery, glass, books, and furniture and has a brief introduction and descriptive notes in English. The price at Bonniers, New York, is \$3.50.

The catalogue issued for the Swedish Tercentenary Art Exhibit and compiled by Dr. Sixten Strömbom is a valuable contribution to the literature on Swedish art available in English. It contains a chapter on each of three divisions in the Exhibit with many illustrations and this is supplemented by an introductory section of 36 pages of pictures entitled, "The Background in Sweden." The catalogue can be bought from Bonniers in New York. Price \$1.00.

The Swedish-American sculptor David Edström has written an autobiography entitled *The Testament of Caliban*. In his Foreword to the book, Rupert Hughes compares it to the autobiography of Cellini. "A lover of beauty, a philosopher, a poet, a great sculptor, a seer of vast conceptions, a struggler with the most sordid, cruel, and the most luxurious evils, he tells with shameless honesty a life of extraordinary richness." It is illustrated with reproductions of some of the author's greatest works. (Funk & Wagnalls, \$3.00.)

Albin Widén, former Fellow of the Foundation from Sweden, is an author of note whose novel *Hem vill jag åter rida* will be found listed under "Swedish Books for American Libraries" in this number. It won the second prize in the contest in which Sally Salminen's won the first. In addition, Mr. Widén has recently published a book entitled *Svenskar*

*som erövrat Amerika* (Swedes who have conquered America). A popular, fully illustrated book, dealing both with the early colonization and present day conditions, it is a preliminary study for a thorough work of research into the causes of emigration and the life of Swedish immigrants in the United States.

*Beginning Norwegian*, by Einar J. Haugen, associate professor of Scandinavian languages in the University of Wisconsin, is a text book designed for those who have no previous knowledge of the subject. It contains in small compass a short history of the language, besides grammar, exercises, a vocabulary of about 800 words, and some reading selections. The fluctuating state of the Norwegian language makes the task of the teacher very difficult. Professor Haugen has thought best to stick to the Riksmål as written by Hamsun and Sigrid Undset, rather than the Landsmål or the latest attempt to fuse the two which has recently received official sanction in Norway. In this he follows the best Norwegian-American authors, who have never attempted to keep up with the lightning speed of development in the old country. (F. S. Crofts. Price \$1.85.)

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*British Dominions:* Oxford University Press, Amen House, Warwick Square, London, E.C.

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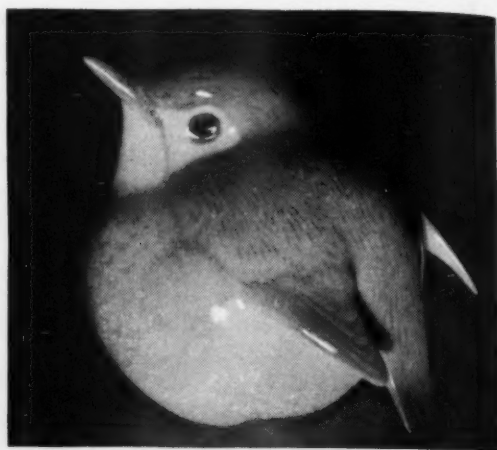
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Of *The American-Scandinavian Review*, published quarterly, at Princeton, New Jersey, for October 1937.  
State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Editor of *The American-Scandinavian Review* and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:

Name of	Post Office address
Publisher, The American-Scandinavian Foundation,	116 East 64th St., New York City
Editor, Hanna Astrup Larsen,	116 East 64th St., New York City
Managing Editor, Hanna Astrup Larsen,	116 East 64th St., New York City
Business Manager, Neilson Abeel,	116 East 64th St., New York City

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

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Henry Goddard Leach, President,	570 Lexington Avenue, New York City
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Neilson Abeel, Secretary,	116 East 64th St., New York City

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4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by her.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is —. (This information is required from daily publications only.)

HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN  
(Signature of editor)

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Clerk's No. 516  
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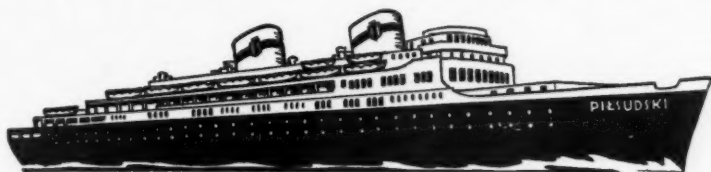
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1938

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February	17	May	1	June	9	July	15
March	17	May	17	June	22	August	11

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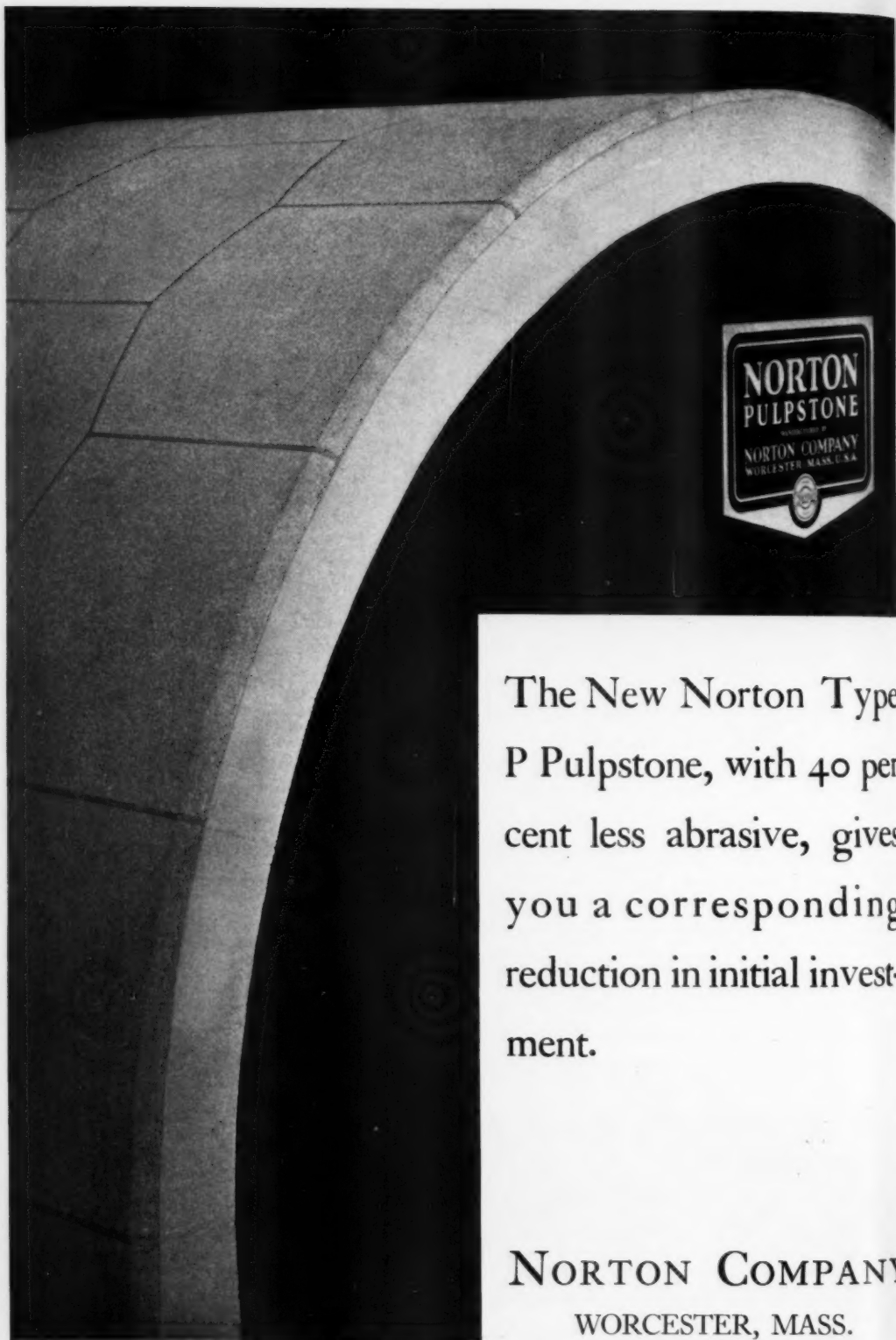


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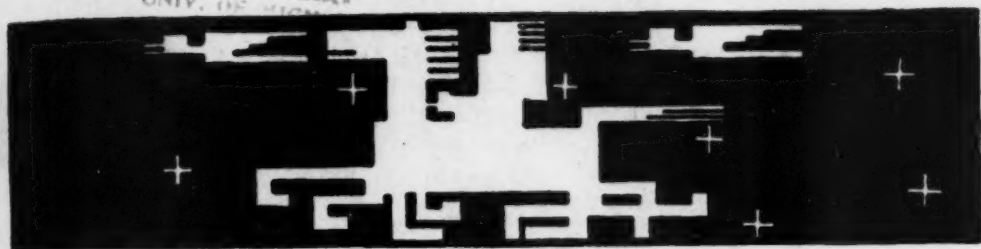
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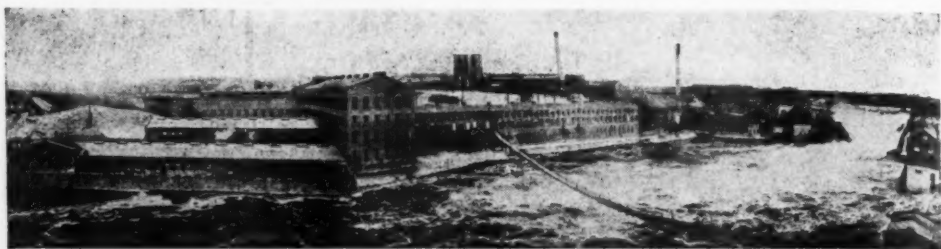
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1937





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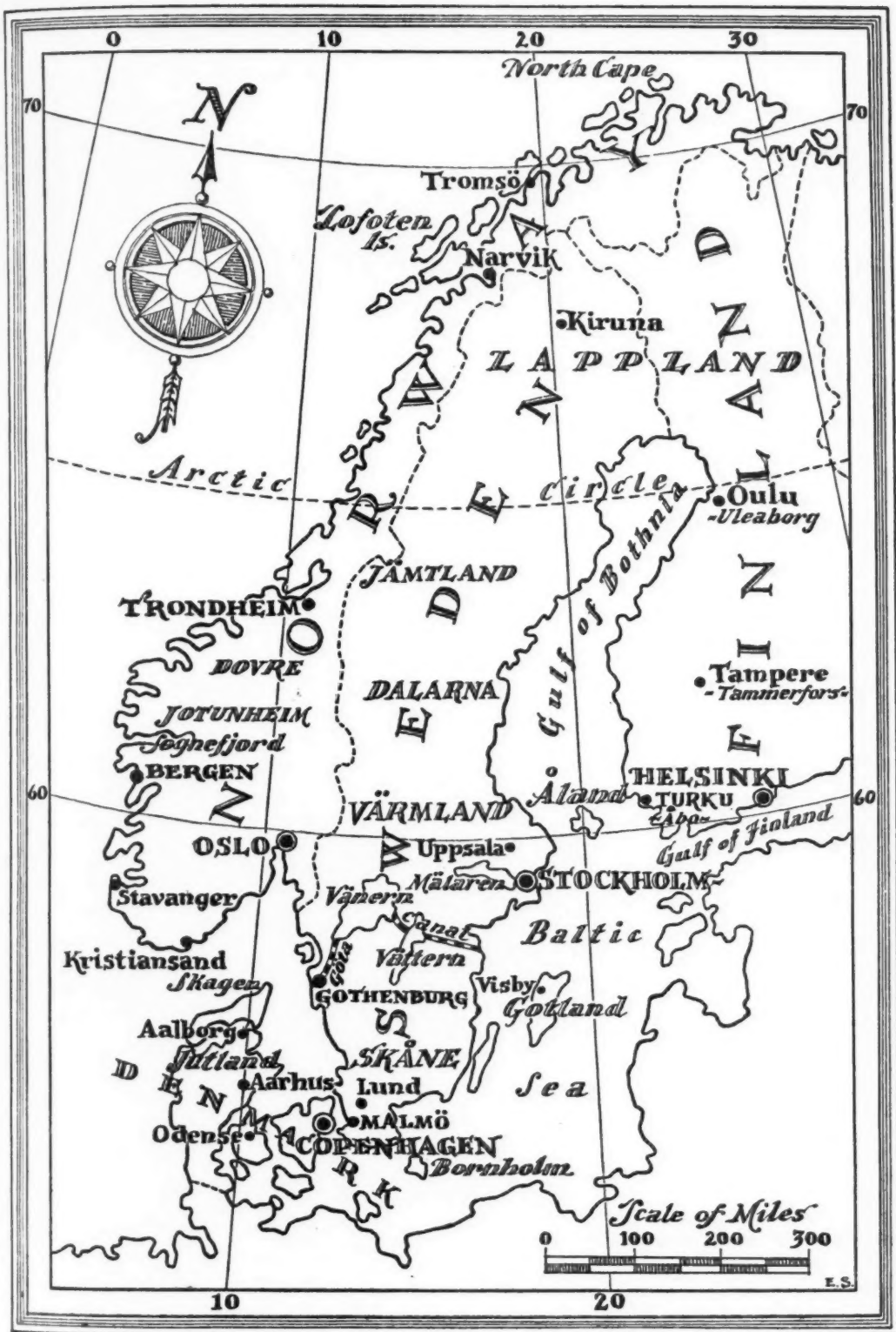
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The Nationally Distributed WATERFALLS BOND is made from  
especially selected, clean, 100% Pure Bleached Sulphite.

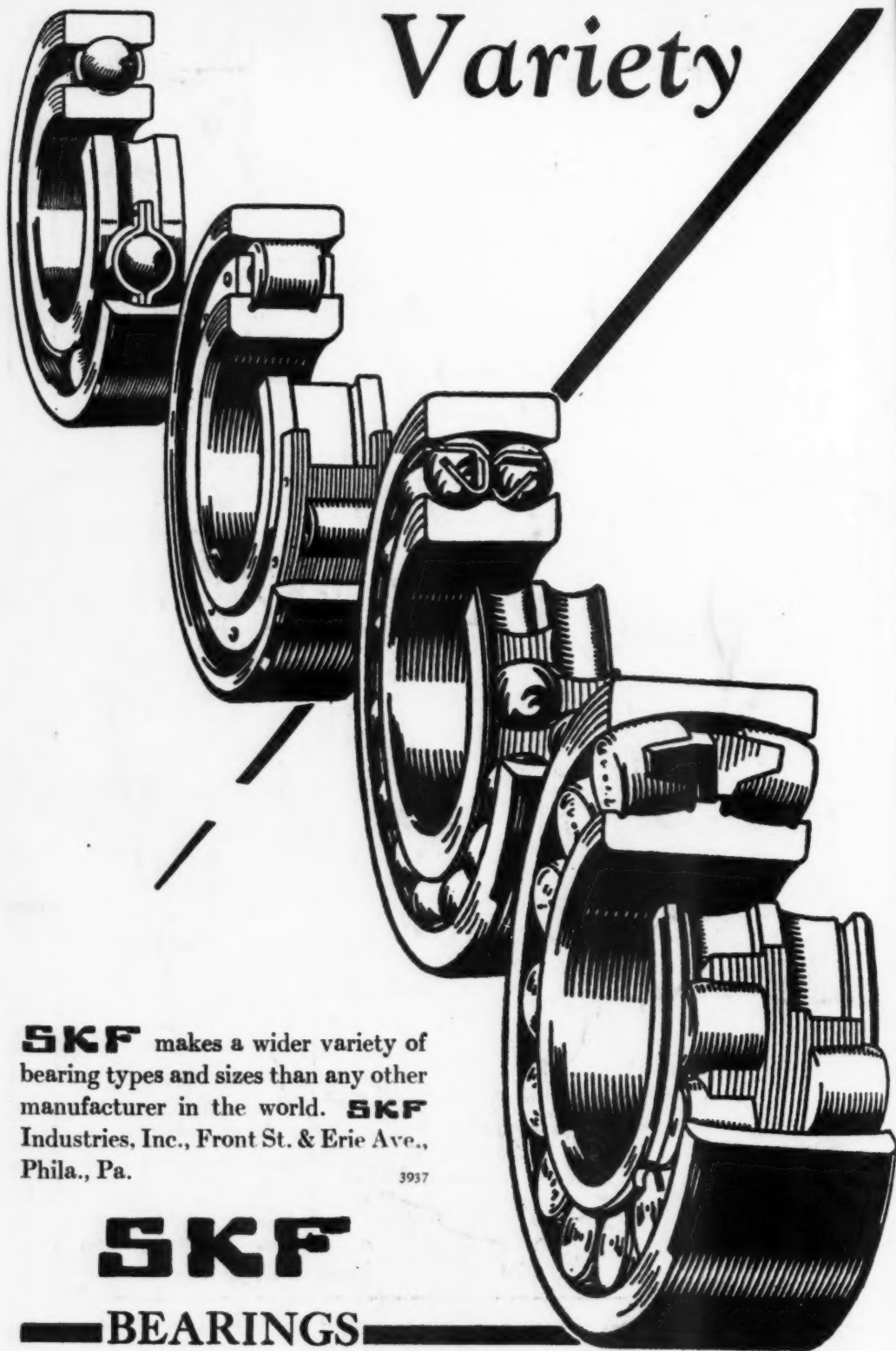
When you order your stationery, specify *Waterfalls Paper*

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## BEARINGS

